

51 - Finding accommodation

Aims: - Inform refugees about housing in the host country.
- Enable refugees to communicate about accommodation.

Communicative situations

- Understand advertisements for apartments and houses to let.
- Understand and be able to give simple information.

Materials

- Pictures related to housing.
- Floorplans of apartments.
- Pictures of items of furniture.
- Advertisements for flats or houses to let (with pictures).

Language activities

Activity 1

Use the pictures related to housing to get refugees to talk about:

- Accommodation and housing in their own country.
- Similarities and difference between homes in the host country and in their own countries.

Activity 2

Use the pictures to introduce some key-words related to housing (e.g. *flat, apartment, house, bedroom etc.*).

- Ask refugees to write these words on cards.
- Check comprehension by asking them to match the words with pictures.

Activity 3

Show refugees one of the floorplans and introduce or check their knowledge of keywords by asking e.g. *Where is the kitchen? And the bathroom?* Then ask them to point to these rooms on the floorplan.

Activity 4

Ask refugees to draw a floorplan by following simple instructions, e.g. *an apartment with one large bedroom, a kitchen, a big living room, and a very small bathroom.* (This activity is suitable for use with refugees with low levels of literacy.)

Activity 5

- Hand out the two floorplans and describe one of the apartments.
- Ask refugees to indicate which is the apartment you described.
- Then, allowing time for preparation, ask them to describe the other floorplan in a simple way.

Activity 6

Find some advertisements (with pictures) of flats or houses to let in the area.

- Ask questions such as: *Have you ever tried to find an apartment or house to rent? Where did you look for advertisements? Was it hard/easy to find one? Why? etc.*
- Invite refugees to exchange information in pairs about the advertisements: the price, the location, the description of the apartment etc., recycling language from the previous activities.

Activity 7

Refugees practice language they may need for speaking to an estate agent or a letting agent

A. *Hello, I'm looking for a house/apartment to rent. Do you have anything suitable for me?*

B. *Where do you want to live and what sort of accommodation do you need?*

A. *I'd like an apartment near the centre with two bedrooms.*

B. *We have a number of properties that might suit you – have a look at these details.*

A. *I'll take these away and look at them. I'll come back tomorrow. Thank you.*

(Use expressions linked to facilities in Tool 35 - [Ideas for learning basic vocabulary: everyday life](#))

Ideas for learners with low literacy

- Cut out pictures of furniture and of the most important rooms in a house. Ask refugees to match the pictures of furniture with the pictures of rooms. Invite learners with low literacy to copy down the names of the rooms and items of furniture.
- Invite them to write lists of furniture which they could find in the different rooms.

Sample materials

Pictures related to housing



Floorplans of apartments

