My First Apartment

Name _____ Date _____

Your first full-time job: $2,600 a month take-home. Live alone, or split a two-bedroom with a roommate? Fill in the totals. (Example numbers for practice.)

Monthly cost	Live alone	With a roommate (your half)
Rent	$1,300	$750
Utilities (power, water)	$150	$90
Internet	$60	$30
Groceries	$350	$350
Transportation	$250	$250
Phone	$45	$45
Total costs		
Left over from $2,600		

1. What percent of take-home pay goes to rent in each case? (rent ÷ 2,600 × 100)

2. Many budget guides suggest keeping rent to about 30% of income. Which option fits?

3. Living alone, plan your leftover: how much to savings, how much to fun, clothes and surprises?

4. Name one thing the roommate option costs you that isn't money.

MY MONEY CHOICE

Roommate or solo? What's the trade-off for you?

WealthWise KIDS

© 2026 WealthWise Kids LLC. All rights reserved.
Free for home and classroom use. Please don't sell or repost.
wealthwisekids.org

My First Apartment

The quick lesson (read aloud, about 1 minute)

> Housing is usually the biggest bill. Many budget guides suggest keeping rent around 30% of income. A roommate can cut costs a lot, freeing money to save, but it trades away some privacy and control. There's no single right answer, only trade-offs you choose with your eyes open.

Two teaching points

1. Rent often decides how much is left for everything else.
2. Every housing choice has money and non-money trade-offs.

Answer key

Totals: alone $2,155, left over **$445** · roommate $1,515, left over **$1,085**.
1. Alone 1,300 ÷ 2,600 = **50%**; roommate 750 ÷ 2,600 ≈ **28.8%**. 2. The roommate option. 3. Any plan that adds to $445. 4. Privacy, quiet, control over your space, the risk of a roommate not paying.

10-minute run

1. Fill in both totals (4 min).
2. Find the rent percentages.
3. Debate roommate vs. solo.

Ask

“What would you need to know about a roommate before signing a lease?”

Goal

Housing is usually the biggest bill. A lower rent leaves room to save, but every choice has non-money trade-offs.

Take it further

Have students look up a real rental listing near them. What income would make it 30% of take-home?

Standard: National Standards for Personal Financial Education (Council for Economic Education and Jump$tart), area: **Spending and Saving**. Print double-sided: the activity on the front, this teaching side on the back.

WealthWise KIDS

© 2026 WealthWise Kids LLC. All rights reserved.
Free for home and classroom use. Please don't sell or repost. **wealthwisekids.org**