

# Star-Telegram

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## How to find, or break up with, a roommate

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Need a roommate and trying to figure out how to find the best match? Here are some tips from [Rent.com](#):

Stick to a budget created before you begin looking at properties. Without a budget, you could be wooed by an apartment you can't afford.

Be honest with yourself: "The key to finding an apartment you love is being honest with yourself about what you aren't able to live with and what you simply can't live without," [Rent.com](#) says. Jot down a list of must-haves.

Give yourself enough time. "You won't like every apartment you see, so begin searching well in advance of your move date in order to find the best fit for your lifestyle and budget. If you wait until the last minute, there's a greater chance that you will settle for a lease that doesn't meet your expectations. Instead, make the effort to research properties in advance, which will allow time to negotiate with the landlord and develop a relationship prior to signing the lease."

What if you think it's time to break up with a roommate?

Speak up: "Let your current roommate know in advance of your plans to move out at the end of the term. This way, your roommate has time to make other arrangements and won't harbor hard feelings about being left in the dark."

Continue to share: "If you announce an upcoming move after you're already found a new place, offer to share the source that you found helpful in your search. Your roommate will appreciate any insight or tips that you might be able to offer, which will help to ease the parting."

Give a gift: "If you're moving out of your parents' house, consider offering them a small gift to sweeten the moment. A gift card to a home store to help them turn your old bedroom into a game room will let your parents know how much you care and that you'll be back to visit!"

Remain friendly: "If a negative relationship with your roommate is your reason for moving out, remember that you are never obligated to divulge future plans, so feel free to use your own discretion."