
Your Housing Needs

Words to Know

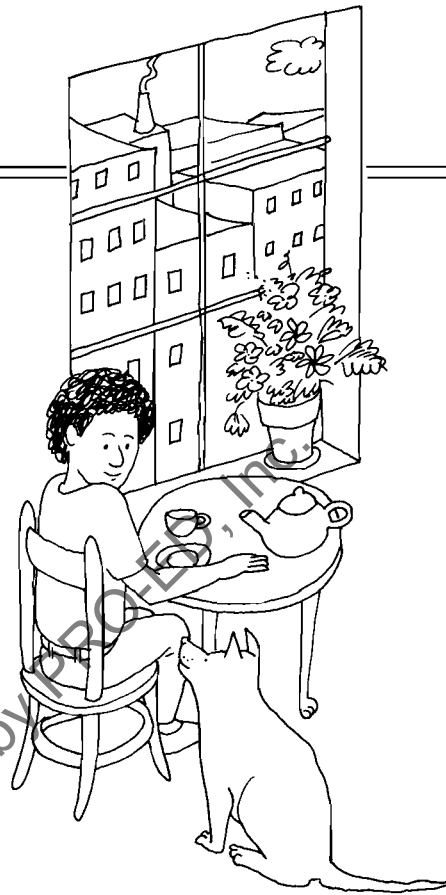
commuting: traveling regularly to and from work

facility: office or agency that provides service to people

premises: house or building with its grounds

reduction: a smaller amount

Before making a move (whether the first time or the fifth), consider what you need. This is an important first step. Each person has individual needs. The first step is to identify those needs. Then you can try to meet them.



Identify Your Housing Needs

Where should you live? This question is a good beginning. Where you live is important. You do not want to be too far from work, recreation, and friends. If you are, you will waste a lot of time commuting.

If there is a person or something that you may have to live near, that will help you decide where you should live. You may have to live near medical assistance or near a sick relative.

If nothing ties you down, the question of where to live becomes more difficult to answer. That is because you have more choices. Do you want to live by water? In a large city? In a dry climate? On a farm? There are a few choices to think about as you decide where to live. For most people, however, a "move" usually means moving within the same town or city.

Today, most people live and work in urban areas. They live in or near large cities. Where to live is often tied to a person's job. People do not want to travel too far to get to work. It is hard to say how far is "too far." For some people, fifteen minutes is too far. Yet others travel two hours to get to work!

Another part of the where to live question is the neighborhood. What do you want in a neighborhood? You want to feel good about the place you live and the neighborhood, too. It's your choice! Here are some things you want to look for in choosing a neighborhood.

1. Close to work (You do not want to spend a lot of time commuting to and from work.)
2. Life style (You want a neighborhood in which you are comfortable. Are there people around who share your interests?)
3. Safety (Is the neighborhood in a high crime area? You and your family should feel safe walking at night in your neighborhood.)
4. Shopping nearby (Are stores in which you like to shop nearby? A variety of shops often means better prices, too.)
5. Leisure activities (How far do you have to travel to go to a movie, show, bowling, etc.?)
6. Schools (As you know, good schools are important for you and your family.)
7. Transportation services (If you do not have a car or do not want to use your car, can you get where you want to go by public transportation?)
8. Other services (You may need these; laundromat, drugstore, hospital, place of worship, bank, dry cleaners.)



Time Out

1. Write a T in the blank if the statement is true. Put an F in the blank if the statement is false.

- a. _____ You should think about where you want to live before renting or buying.
- b. _____ Living a long way from work or shopping should not bother you.
- c. _____ Most people today live and work in farm areas.
- d. _____ Before renting or buying, you should consider what you need.

2. Look at the list that follows. They are all things to consider before you move. Next to each item, list two things you would consider. The first one has been done for you.

Work

How far away is it? _____

How long will it take me to get there? _____

Life Style

Safety

Shopping

Leisure Activities

Schools

Transportation

3. What does *urban* mean?

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