Module:

Housing

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Lesson:
Looking for a Home

OBJECTIVES
In this lesson you will:

• Learn about different housing options in the U.S.
• Learn about affordable housing programs
• Understand what is required to apply for housing

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### NEW WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>apartment</td>
<td>one home in a building of many homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>house</td>
<td>a building separate from other homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mobile home</td>
<td>a small home on wheels that can move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rent</td>
<td>money you pay every month for your home that you don’t own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>property manager</td>
<td>a person who manages a home that you rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lease</td>
<td>a paper you sign agreeing to rent a home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>utilities</td>
<td>you pay for gas, power and internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roommates</td>
<td>people you live with who also pay rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>down payment</td>
<td>money you pay first when you buy a home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mortgage</td>
<td>money you pay every month for your home that you own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affordable housing</td>
<td>homes for people who have a little money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>private rental</td>
<td>a home owned by someone who rents it to other people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMI</td>
<td>Area Median Income; how much money half the people in an area make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>background check</td>
<td>your criminal history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rental history</td>
<td>your history of places you’ve lived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit</td>
<td>your history of paying for rent or loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proof of income</td>
<td>shows how much money you make</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>security deposit</td>
<td>money you pay when you first rent a home; you get the money back when you leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cosigner</td>
<td>someone who signs a lease with you; they agree to pay rent if you can’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>income</td>
<td>how much money you make through your job</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IN YOUR COUNTRY
Talk in a group.

- Do people live in houses or apartments?
- Do people rent or own their home?
- How do you find a new home?

AYE LOOKS FOR A NEW HOME
Aye came from Burma with her husband and four children. Her family was resettled in Texas. Aye didn’t know anyone in Texas, but she had a cousin in Seattle. After her asylum was approved, she moved with her family to Seattle to be near her cousin and the Burmese community.

Aye and her family moved in with her cousin but they were too crowded in her cousin’s house. She knew she needed to find her own home but she didn’t know how. She was still learning English and she didn’t have a job yet. She also wanted to live close to her cousin and live near bus routes because she didn’t have a car.
ACTIVITY: The Right Home for You

What is most important to you in a home? Look at the list below. Write a 1 next to the most important thing to you. Write a 2 next to the second most important, etc.

_____ cheap rent
_____ a big home
_____ safe neighborhood
_____ close to bus and train
_____ close to work, school, grocery stores and parks
_____ friendly neighbors
_____ parking

TYPES OF HOUSING

In the U.S, there are different types of homes: apartments, houses, condos, townhouses, and mobile homes are some examples. Apartments and houses are most common.
PAYING FOR HOME

There are different options for paying for a home:

Renting a Home

To rent at home, you must pay an amount every month to the owner or property manager. You will sign a lease or rental agreement, which says you agree to pay your rent and other bills each month.

Shared Housing

Shared housing means you rent a house or an apartment with roommates – other people living in the same house or apartment with you or your family. This is good if you are a single person or a small family. Sharing a home can be cheaper than renting your own home because you share the cost of the rent and utilities.

Owning a Home

Many people in the US choose to buy a home. Buying a home is an investment for the future. In the U.S, however it is usually expensive. When you buy a home, you need money for a down payment. You often borrow money to pay for the rest of the home. Every month you pay your mortgage payment to the bank for the money you borrowed. When you buy a home, you also pay insurance, taxes, maintenance and home repairs.

Questions

Think about the options for paying for a home.

- What are the advantages and disadvantages to each?
- Which option should Aye and her family choose?
PRIVATE RENTALS

Cheap private rentals go quickly. There are a few ways you can find out about openings:

• Talk to friends or family
• Talk to property managers in the area where you want to live
• Look online. There are many websites you can use to find homes such as Craigslist or Zillow. Be careful when looking for housing online. Some advertisements are fake and people may try to cheat you. Remember, never send money or personal information to anyone online. You never need to pay rent until you have an agreement.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS

There are several affordable housing programs in the US to help people find a place to live:

HUD

You can apply for HUD housing through the city where you want to live. You can apply online or in person. You apply once, but there is a waitlist. It can take 4-6 years to get housing through HUD. The process is first come, first served. This is a good option for people who have low income or no income at all. Your rent will be based on your income.

Section 8

Applications for Section 8 open once a year on average. You can apply online. Once the application period opens, you only have about two weeks to apply. Section 8 is a lottery. After everyone applies, the government will choose people at random to get Section 8 housing. If you don’t get chosen, you have to apply again next time. Once you get chosen for Section 8, the government will help decide where you will live and how much your rent will be.

Low Income Housing / Tax Credit

Low Income Housing or Tax Credit housing is available to people who make 30-80% of the AMI or Area Medium Income. You can contact property managers to apply. There is no waitlist. People can apply as homes become available. Your rent will be based on your income. Once your rent is set, you cannot earn higher income.
**ACTIVITY: Affordable Housing Program Review**

Read the phrases below. Put a check under the correct housing program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HUD</th>
<th>Section 8</th>
<th>Low Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can take 4-6 years</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a lottery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For people who make 30-80% AMI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications open once a year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply through the city</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply through property managers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You reapply if you’re not chosen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You only apply once</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPLYING FOR A HOME

When you apply to rent an apartment or house a few things will happen:

1. You will fill out an application with information about you.

2. The property manager will ask for your Social Security Number, ID Card and proof of income.

3. The property manager will also check your rental history, credit score and do a background check.

If you are new to the US, you may not have a rental history, credit score, income or social security number yet. Don’t worry! You can still rent a home. In some cases, the landlord will ask for a higher security deposit or a cosigner. A cosigner will be responsible for your rent if you can’t pay. This could be a family member or friend.

Questions

- What information will you need to apply for a home?
- Aye doesn’t have a job yet. Can she still rent a home?
OTHER RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Ask for Help

Finding a home in the US can be difficult. If you need help, don’t be afraid to ask! There is support for you. You can go to your resettlement agency or local community organization to get help. If you have a case manager, they may know about housing programs or have relationships with property managers; they can make a referral for you.

Short-Term Assistance

Sometimes, even if you already have a home, you may need extra help. Many agencies have programs to help you pay rent for one month or pay for just one of your utility bills. Again, help is there for you if you need it!

AYE FINDS A NEW HOME

Aye talks to her cousin about finding a new home. Her cousin is friends with a local property manager. The property manager says there is a home available in the neighborhood.

Aye fills out a rental application. She doesn’t have a job right now so her cousin will be her cosigner. She fills out and signs a lease. Now Aye is happy. She and her family have a new home close to her cousin.
WRAP-UP
Think about you. Answer the questions and write a housing plan:

- Where do you live? How do you like it?
- Do you want to move in the future? If yes, where to?
- Will you need housing assistance? What program will you apply for?
Lesson:

Rental Agreement

OBJECTIVES
In this lesson you will:

• Learn what is included in the rental agreement
• Learn the tenant’s rights and responsibilities
• Learn the landlord’s rights and responsibilities
• Learn about what to do when you move in and move out

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## NEW WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rental agreement or lease</td>
<td>a paper you sign to get a house or apartment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tenant</td>
<td>the person who is renting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>landlord</td>
<td>the owner of the building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>property</td>
<td>apartment, house or anything that belongs to somebody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>due date</td>
<td>date when you must pay rent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>late fee</td>
<td>money you pay if rent is not paid by the due date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>security deposit</td>
<td>money you pay if you damage your home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inspection</td>
<td>looking at something closely in order to learn more about it; to find problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>terminate the agreement</td>
<td>end the agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>utilities</td>
<td>pay for gas, electricity and/or trash removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>damage</td>
<td>something gets broken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>furnished</td>
<td>comes with furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintain</td>
<td>take care of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evict</td>
<td>you must move out of your home for not paying rent or making damage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IN YOUR COUNTRY

Talk to your classmates.

- Did you rent or own your home?
- If you rented, did you have to sign a rental agreement?
- What utilities did you pay for?
- What other housing costs did you have?

RENTAL AGREEMENTS AND YOU

When you rent an apartment, you must sign a lease or rental agreement. When you sign it, you agree to rent the apartment or house for a certain number of months and to pay rent on time. A rental agreement explains the rights and responsibilities of the tenant and the landlord. A rental agreement protects you from unfair treatment by the landlord.

A rental agreement usually has the information about how much the rent is, when it is due, how long you are renting the place for and how many people will live there. It will also tell you if you are responsible for utilities (gas, electricity, trash removal).

Questions

- Do you pay rent now?
- How much is your rent?
- What utilities do you pay for?
Information for the Landlord

Before you sign a rental agreement, the landlord may check your credit history, the record of you paying bills on time. You also show the proof of your income. If you don’t have a credit history or a job, you find someone who agrees to pay your rent if you cannot. This is a cosigner.

Questions

- Do you have a good credit history?
- How can you get a good credit history?

Security Deposit

Before you move in, you pay a security deposit. You get it back if you take care of your apartment. The landlord can use your security deposit only for damages that are beyond normal tear and wear. When you pay a deposit, get a receipt.

Questions

- How much security deposit did you pay?
- Did you move before?
- Did you get your security deposit back?

When you are ready to move out, clean the apartment very well, write a letter to your landlord and ask for your security deposit.

Breaking a Rental Agreement

If you break a rental agreement, you can be evicted. If you don’t pay rent or damage the property, you will be required to leave the apartment.
UNDERSTANDING RENTAL AGREEMENTS

ACTIVITY: Reading a Lease

Read the rental agreement and answer the questions.

Lease Agreement

Landlord: John Stevens

Tenant: Husham and Huda Sakkar

Fixed Lease: Starts on August 9, 2020 and ends on August 9, 2021


2 Bedrooms

1 Bathrooms

Not furnished

The Landlord will provide the following appliances:

a refrigerator, a stove, a microwave and a dishwasher

Rent: The tenant will pay $1,600 on the 1st of every month.

Late Fee: $25.00 for each day rent is late.

Security Deposit: $650

The Security Deposit will be returned to the tenant within 30 days after the end of the lease.
Move-in Inspection: Before tenant moves into the apartment, landlord and tenant agree to inspect the apartment and note any present damages or needed repairs.

Parking: The Landlord will provide 1 parking space to tenant for a fee of $100.00 to be paid monthly.

Utilities:
Included in the rent: water, electricity, trash removal.
Not included: heat.

Early Termination: The tenant has the right to terminate this agreement at any time by providing at least 60 days’ written notice to the landlord along with an early termination fee of $600.00. During the notice period for termination the tenant will remain responsible for the payment of rent.

Smoking is prohibited in the apartment or common areas.

Right of Entry: The landlord has the right to enter the apartment during normal working hours by providing at least 24 hours notice for inspections or to make necessary repairs.

Manager can be contacted for any maintenance or repair at:
Name: Vladimir Levin
Telephone: (206) 734-5647
E-Mail: vladimir@gmail.com

Maintenance, Repairs: The tenant will keep apartment clean and sanitary, and leave it in the same condition as received; normal wear and tear excepted.
The landlord is responsible for repairs to the interior and exterior of the building. The landlord will place fresh batteries in all battery-operated smoke detectors when the tenant moves into the apartment and will replace them every 6 months.
Questions

- Who is the tenant?
- Who is the landlord?
- How many bedrooms are there in the apartment?
- How much is the rent?
- When is the rent due date?
- How long is the lease for?
- What other things must Hasham and Huda pay for besides rent?
- What utilities do they have to pay for?
- What is the purpose of the security deposit?
- Why do you think the landlord must give a 24-hour notice before entering the apartment?

ACTIVITY: Rights and Responsibilities

Work with your partner. Fill in the chart using the information in the rental agreement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things that the tenant must do</th>
<th>Things that the landlord must do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WRAP-UP
Read the statements and decide if they are true or false. Write T for True and F for False.

_____ It’s important to have a rental agreement when you rent an apartment.

_____ A rental agreement has the information on how much your rent is and when it is due.

_____ If you lose a job, it’s ok not to pay rent that month.

_____ A landlord can enter your apartment at any time without letting you know.

_____ If you want to move out before your lease ends, you have to let the landlord know in advance.

➢ Why is it important to have a rental agreement?
Lesson:

Housing Problems

OBJECTIVES

In this lesson you will:

• Learn how to describe the most common problems in your apartment
• Learn the landlord’s repair and maintenance responsibilities
• Learn the tenant’s repair and maintenance responsibilities
• Learn how to report a housing problem to a landlord

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NEW WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>responsibilities</td>
<td>what you must do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rights</td>
<td>rules about what you can do or have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heating</td>
<td>how your home is kept warm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plumbing</td>
<td>the pipes that bring water into your home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>electricity</td>
<td>power for lights, fridge and oven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insects/pests</td>
<td>cockroaches, bed bugs, ants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rodents</td>
<td>mice, rats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mold / mildew</td>
<td>bad growth from too much moisture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supplement</td>
<td>something that completes something else when added to it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>report a problem</td>
<td>tell the landlord there is a problem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IN YOUR COUNTRY

Talk to your classmates

► What housing problems did you have?
► Did you fix them or did you ask someone to fix them?
NAJWA AND KHALEEL’S STORY

Najwa and her husband Khaleel have 4 children and live in a 3 bedrooms apartment. They have lived in their apartment for almost 2 years. They have had some issues with their neighbors such as loud music late at night, domestic fights and constant yelling that made sleeping very difficult for the family especially for the children. Both Najwa and Khaleel have language barriers and they both want to move to a better area and a better place to live, but affordable housing is difficult to find. Also, there is a lot of mold on the walls and ceiling. Najwa is worried that it’s not healthy for her children to live in this apartment.

Their Lease renewal is almost due and they were informed by the Apartment Manager that their monthly rent of $1765 will increase to $ 1,900 including utilities.

Khaleel works fulltime at a warehouse making $16.00 per hour and commutes while Najwa is a stay at home mom. They receive TANF assistance but its barely enough to supplement their rent.

Questions

- What two problems does Najwa have?
- What do you think Najwa should do?
- What problems do you have in your home?
- What do you do about them?
COMMON HOUSING PROBLEMS

ACTIVITY: Vocabulary Practice

Match the vocabulary to the pictures:

- sink is leaking
- broken window
- clogged toilet
- mice
- mold
- bugs (cockroaches, bedbugs)
- broken lock on door
- electricity out
- heater broke down
- roof leaks
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ACTIVITY: Fill in the Blanks 1

Read the paragraphs and fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>responsibilities</th>
<th>apartment</th>
<th>rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lease</td>
<td>tenant</td>
<td>landlord</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you rent an ________________ or house in the United States, you must sign a piece of paper called a ________________. A lease is a document that explains the ________________ and ________________ of the tenant and the landlord. This is a legal paper that protects both the ________________ and the landlord. A lease protects you from unfair treatment by your ________________.
Landlord’s Responsibilities

Landlords are usually responsible for repairing the following issues:

- heat
- plumbing
- electricity
- locks
- lights in common areas
- serious mold issues
- fire escapes
- smoke detectors
- elevators
- yard maintenance
- bed bugs
- appliances such as the: fridge, stove, dish washer, washer/dryer

ACTIVITY: Fill in the Blanks 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>electrical</th>
<th>safety</th>
<th>smoke detectors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>law</td>
<td>rodents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both landlords and tenants must obey the housing _______. Landlords must make sure that the apartment or house meets certain standards of ___________ and sanitation, before you move in. The landlord must be sure that ___________, plumbing, and heating systems are in good condition. They must provide ________________ and get rid of any ________ and insects.
ACTIVITY: Fill in the Blanks 3

Tenants must keep the ________and _________ reasonably clean, take out the ________and recycle regularly. Tenants are responsible for reporting any home problems to the landlord as soon as they happen. If you want to make any changes to your apartment, such as _______walls, you must ask the landlord for ________.

ACTIVITY: Who Is Responsible?

Read the problem and write who is responsible to fix it. Write T for Tenant and L for Landlord.

___ The sink is leaking.
___ There are cockroaches.
___ The place is dirty.
___ There are crayon marks on the walls.
___ The heater is broken.
___ The chair is broken.
___ The carpet is dirty with coffee stain.
___ The lightbulb is out.
___ The smoke detector is not working.
REPORTING A PROBLEM

What problems do you see in the pictures?

When something needs to be fixed in your apartment, call or write a letter to your landlord as soon as possible. If you don’t, the problem can get worse and you may be responsible for part of it.

ACTIVITY: Conversation Practice

Read the conversation and practice the conversation with your partner.

Ali: Hello. This is Ali in apartment 102 in Samara apartment complex.

Landlord: Hi Ali. What can I do for you?

Ali: My heat isn’t working. It stopped working last night, and it’s very cold in the apartment. Could you please come and fix it?

Landlord: I will come there soon.

Ali: Can you give me a more specific time?

Landlord: I will be there tomorrow in the early afternoon. Around 1 pm.

Ali: Thank you!

You can also write a letter to the landlord. Keep a copy of the letter for your records.
ACTIVITY: Read a Letter

Read a letter and answer some questions.

August 8, 2020
Najwa Mohammadi
Blanchard St. Apt 203,
Seattle, WA, 98118

John Brown
400 Pine St. Suite 110,
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Brown,
I am writing to report a problem in my apartment. The sink in the kitchen is leaking. The water is dripping into the cabinet under the sink. I put a bucket under the leak, but it fills very quickly. I am worried the water might damage the apartment below. Could you please take care of this problem?

Thank you,
Najwa Mohammadi

Questions

- Who is the tenant?
- What is the landlord’s name?
- What is the problem?
- Who is responsible for fixing it?
WRAP-UP
Write two new things that you learned.
1. 
2. 
Lesson:
Home Safety

OBJECTIVES
In this lesson you will:

• Learn to recognize household hazards
• Learn to read and interpret household product labels
• Learn how to safely store household products
• Learn how to use household safety devices
• Learn about waste management in the US

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## NEW WORDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hazard</td>
<td>not safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poison</td>
<td>can make you sick or die if you eat it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toxic</td>
<td>can make you sick or die if you eat it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>danger</td>
<td>not safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caution</td>
<td>be careful to avoid danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warning</td>
<td>be careful to avoid danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>label</td>
<td>information on a product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flammable</td>
<td>can catch fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reactive</td>
<td>can make toxic gas or fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corrosive</td>
<td>can burn you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waste</td>
<td>something you don’t want or need anymore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compost</td>
<td>food or plant waste that is made into new soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garbage / trash</td>
<td>waste that can’t be made into something new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recycle</td>
<td>waste that can be made into something new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>climate change</td>
<td>the temperature of the earth is getting hotter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pollution</td>
<td>something bad for the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbon monoxide</td>
<td>a deadly gas that you can’t see or smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbon monoxide alarm</td>
<td>a device that will make an alarm if there is carbon monoxide in your home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smoke alarm</td>
<td>a device that will make an alarm if there is smoke or a fire in your home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fire extinguisher</td>
<td>a device that put out a small fire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IN YOUR COUNTRY

Think about your country.

- Did you live in a house or apartment in your country?
- Was your home safe?
- What did you use to clean?
- Where did you put your waste?

ACTIVITY: Home Hazards

Look at the rooms in the home. Work in a group to answer the questions. Share your answers with the whole class.

- Do you have these rooms in your home?
- What might be some dangers in each room?
PRODUCT HAZARDS
There are four main types of product hazards in the home:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toxic or Poisonous</strong></td>
<td>Can make you sick or die if you eat it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flammable</strong></td>
<td>Can catch fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Corrosive</strong></td>
<td>Can burn you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reactive</strong></td>
<td>Can cause toxic gas, fire or explosions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Images: kingcounty.gov
ACTIVITY: Containers

Look at the pictures below.

- What do you think is inside the containers?
- Why is it important to know?

![Image: kingcounty.gov]

THE IMPORTANCE OF LABELS

In the US, all products come with labels explaining what’s inside. It’s important to read the label to learn about safety information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danger / Poison</th>
<th>High danger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caution / Warning</td>
<td>Medium danger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No safety label</td>
<td>Safe - No danger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACTIVITY: Reading Labels

Read the labels. What is the danger of each product? Match the labels to the level of danger.

- **High danger**
- **Medium danger**
- **No danger**
**KEEPING KIDS SAFE**

Look at the picture below.

- What do you see?
- What’s wrong?
- Where do you keep hazardous products in your home?

![Picture of a child playing with hazardous products]

It’s important to keep your children safe. Here are some steps you can take:

3. Put medicine, cleaning products and dangerous objects and in high cupboards or on high shelves.

4. Lock cupboard doors. You can use a clip or rubber band to keep doors shut. There are also special locks you can buy.

5. Talk to your children about safety. Help them understand that there are things at home they shouldn’t eat or touch.
SAFETY DEVICES

Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

In most places in the US you must have smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. If you don’t have them, you can get in trouble.

The **smoke alarm** will sound an alarm if there is smoke or a fire. It is located high up near the ceiling.

The **carbon monoxide alarm** will sound an alarm if there is carbon monoxide in your home. It is located low down on a wall near the floor. Carbon monoxide is a gas that can kill you. You can’t see or smell it. It comes from cars, or from gas heating or appliances in your home.

Both the smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms use batteries. To test each, push the button on the front of the alarm. The alarm should make a sound. If it doesn’t, it might need new batteries.

*Images: seattle.gov, sandyspringsga.gov*
Fire Extinguishers

In some homes or apartments there is a fire extinguisher. A fire extinguisher can help put out a small fire. In apartments, these are sometimes located outside or in the hallway.

Follow the directions below to use a fire extinguisher:

1. Pull the pin
2. Aim at the base of the fire
3. Squeeze the handle
4. Sweep from side to side

Image: osha.gov

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Look at the pictures below:

› What do you see in the pictures?
› Do you have these bins at your home?
› What goes inside?

Images: seattle.gov

Lesson: Home Safety
Low Intermediate Level

ReWA
In the US, there are three places for waste: compost, recycle and garbage.

**Compost**

Compost is for food and yard waste. These items go to a facility where they are turned into soil for a garden:

**Recycle**

These items can go to a recycling facility to be sorted and made new again:

**Garbage**

These items can’t be made new again, so they go to a landfill:

*Images: seattle.gov, oregonmetro.gov, osha.gov, michigan.gov*
City Waste Management Rules

Every city has its own rules about what can be recycled. Here is an example from the city of Seattle:

![Image showing waste management rules]

When in Doubt, Find Out: seattle.gov/utilities/wheredoesitgo or (206) 684-3000
ACTIVITY: Where Does It Go?

Look at the rules for the City of Seattle again. Draw and line and match the waste to the correct bin.

Images: seattle.gov, friscotexas.gov, epa.gov
Clothing

What should you do with clothing you don’t want any more? Damaged or dirty clothes can go in the garbage. If you have good, clean or slightly damaged clothing, you can donate them to a thrift store or shelter.

REASONS TO RECYCLE AND COMPOST

You might be wondering, Why should I care where my waste goes? There are many reasons to recycle and compost:

- Recycling and composting are good for the earth. They help plants, animals and people too.
- Recycling and composting help stop pollution.
- Recycling and composting help slow climate change and make the world cleaner and safer.

Images: seattle.gov
WRAP-UP

Answer the questions below. Write a plan. Tell your teacher.

▷ What can you do to make your home safer for you and your family?
▷ How can you recycle and compost in your home?


HOMEWORK: Safety in Your Home

At home, look around and complete the tasks:

☐ Find and test the smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector.

☐ Find a fire extinguisher.

☐ Find the garbage, recycle and compost (food and yard waste) bins.