



A2

A2 · UNIT 1 · EPISODE 9

Renting an Apartment

Find the real price of an apartment.

KEY WORDS

rent	The money you pay every month to live in a place.	<i>The rent is nine hundred a month.</i>
utilities	Water, heat and electricity for a home.	<i>Are utilities included?</i>
included	Part of the price, not extra.	<i>Water is included. Internet is extra.</i>
move in	Start living in a new place.	<i>When can I move in?</i>
lease	The contract for renting a home.	<i>How long is the lease?</i>
deposit	Money you pay first and get back later.	<i>When do I get the deposit back?</i>

THE STORY

- Ray** Hi, I'm Ray.
- Nina** And I'm Nina.
- Ray** Nina, you've rented three apartments here. Any advice?
- Nina** Yes. Ask about money first. Not last.
- Ray** Why first?
- Nina** Because the rent is not the real number.
- Ray** What do you mean?
- Nina** The first place I saw was nine hundred a month. Nice. But water and heat were not included.
- Ray** So what was the real number?
- Nina** About eleven hundred. Two hundred more, every month.
- Ray** So what do you ask?
- Nina** Four words. Is utilities included?
- Ray** Is utilities included. That's it?
- Nina** That's it. And then: what is not included?
- Ray** That's smart. The second question catches what the first one misses.
- Nina** Yes. Sometimes internet is extra. Sometimes parking.
- Ray** What else should people ask?
- Nina** When can I move in. Very important.

Ray Because you have to leave your old place.

Nina Yes. One time the dates did not match. I paid two rents for three weeks.

Ray Ouch.

Nina So ask early. And ask: how long is the lease?

Ray One year? Six months?

Nina Usually one year. But sometimes you can ask for six months. You have to ask.

Ray And the deposit?

Nina Ask how much, and ask when you get it back.

Ray People forget the second part.

Nina Always. Let's practice. You are the landlord.

Ray Sure. So, this is the apartment. Nine hundred a month.

Nina It's nice. Is utilities included?

Ray Water is included. Heat and electricity are not.

Nina Okay. What else is not included?

Ray Internet. And parking is fifty extra.

Nina Got it. When can I move in?

Ray The first of next month.

Nina And how long is the lease?

Ray One year.

Nina Is six months possible?

Ray ...Maybe. Let me check.

Nina See? You have to ask.

Ray So: is utilities included, what is not included, when can I move in, how long is the lease, and the deposit.

Nina That's it for today. See you next time.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. Why is the rent "not the real number"?

- ☐ A Utilities can be extra.
- ☐ B The landlord lies.
- ☐ C The rent changes every month.

2. In Ray's apartment, what is included?

- ☐ A Water
- ☐ B Heat and electricity
- ☐ C Internet

3. When can Nina move in?

- ☐ A Today
- ☐ B The first of next month
- ☐ C In six months

4. What two things should you ask about the deposit?

- ☐ A How much, and when you get it back
- ☐ B Where, and why
- ☐ C Cash or card

Shadowing tip. Pick three lines you like from the story. Say each one five times, faster each time, until it sounds natural.

ANSWER KEY

1. **A** Water and heat were not included, so the real cost was higher.
2. **A** Water is included. Heat and electricity are not, and internet is extra.
3. **B** The landlord says: the first of next month.
4. **A** Ask how much, and ask when you get it back.

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