

Keeping the Facts Straight



Name of real estate agent: _____

Date of apartment search: _____ Time of viewing Apt 1: _____ Apt 2: _____

BUILDING LOCATION	TRAIN / BUS	CORE NEEDS?	APARTMENT INFO	SPACE SIZES 1=tiny to 5=huge	CLEANLINESS 1=dirty to 5=clean	NOISE LEVEL 1=quite to 5=loud	RENT (\$)
Street _____ _____	Train lines _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Doorman <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent <input type="checkbox"/> Elevator	Apt Number _____	Bedroom 1 2 3 4 5	Bedroom 1 2 3 4 5	Street noise 1 2 3 4 5	\$ _____ Utilities included: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (which): _____
Cross Streets _____	Bus lines _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry <input type="checkbox"/> Gym <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor space <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Floor _____	Closets 1 2 3 4 5	Closets 1 2 3 4 5	Inside noise 1 2 3 4 5	_____
Nearby amenities (food, fun, park...) _____ _____	_____	_____	Number of Bedrooms _____	Kitchen 1 2 3 4 5	Kitchen 1 2 3 4 5	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	Bathroom 1 2 3 4 5	Bathroom 1 2 3 4 5	_____	_____

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Nearby amenities (food, fun, park...) _____ _____	_____	_____	Number of Bedrooms _____	Kitchen 1 2 3 4 5	Kitchen 1 2 3 4 5	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	Bathroom 1 2 3 4 5	Bathroom 1 2 3 4 5	_____	_____

NOTES

I think I want the place! Wait, answer these questions first:

- How much light does the apartment get?
- What exposure does it have? (Southern exposure is the brightest, but no matter what the exposure is, buildings or shady trees can block light).
- How might it look different if the weather were different or it were earlier or later in the day?
- How much light do I need to feel happy?
- Will my furniture fit? If not, can I afford to store it, or does the building have storage?
- Do I want to/can I afford to buy new furniture for a rental apartment?
- How long might I live there?
- Does the building accept pets? Even if I don't have one now, might I want to get a pet in the near future?
- Is everything functioning well in the apartment? (Landlords are responsible to ensure everything is functioning in the unit; however, some landlords are slow to fix things, and it's best to move in with everything running well. You may also ask that things be fixed or improved before moving in.)
- Is there sufficient overhead lighting?
- Good water pressure?
- Complete kitchen?
- Working stove/oven
- Sizeable refrigerator
- Good counter space
- Will I be happy living in the neighborhood? (Some things are completely subjective. Only you can answer these questions.)
- Are the surrounding blocks nice?
- Will I feel comfortable walking alone at night?
- Are there enough things to do to keep me happy?

As with all things in life, there is need to compromise. While the Keeping Things Straight worksheet and follow up questions aim to direct you to the best apartment for you, there are realities of budget to consider, so you may not get everything you wish for. Decide what you can live without, and make the choice that best fits your circumstances. Now you're the expert.