# Your First Apartment

## Sample with a practice task

## Ask about apartment-specific costs

Template 2 separates recurring charges, initial amounts and conditional fees. For a US listing, ask what the stated rent includes and which utilities, parking or other charges are separate. Do not assume that every lease follows the same local rules. In the fictional example, monthly rent is 1,200 dollars and an identified service charge is 80; electricity and internet remain unknown. The confirmed subtotal is 1,280 dollars, not the complete cost of living there. Keep unknown items visible. Treat a deposit as an upfront commitment rather than monthly rent.

## Your task

Rent is 1,200 plus an identified 80 service charge; electricity is unknown. What figure can you state and how should it be labeled?

# Model answer and self-check

1,280 dollars as the confirmed monthly subtotal. Do not label it total housing cost; electricity and other unresolved charges remain separate.

Unknown is not zero, and the deposit is not counted as recurring rent.

Organization course for adult first-time renters. Not legal, financing, tax or insurance advice, a promise of rental approval or an assessment of whether lease clauses are enforceable. Verify local rules and deadlines with appropriate authorities. No instructions for electrical, gas or other hazardous work.