
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English at University

3: Roommate



BBC
LEARNING
ENGLISH

This is not a word-for-word transcript

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Learn phrases about compromise and synonyms for being untidy.

Narrator

Welcome back to English at University - the series that teaches some English phrases to help you through your first year of study abroad. Mary's finally found her way to the university no thanks to new student, Daniel. She's managed to find her way to the accommodation block and is looking for her new room. It's exciting isn't it Mary?

Mary

Well I'm at my room – room 101 – but the door's already open.

Narrator

Well you'd better go in. Good luck!

Mary

Oh hello, sorry, I thought this was my room? Room 101?

Abi

Yeah it's room 101 and *you* must be my new roommate. We share rooms here. I'm Abi, pleased to meet you.

Mary

Nice to meet you too – but I didn't realise I was sharing a room.

Abi

Oh don't worry, I won't bite. We'll have a blast.

Mary

A blast?

Abi

A laugh... a party... an amazing time. I've been here three years – it's great, loads of fit guys, parties...

Mary

And studying?

Abi

What's that! Listen, don't mind my mess. I tend to dry my washing on the window sill, that's when I actually wash it – sorry about the clothes on the floor – and all that stuff on the desk is mine. I'm sure you won't be needing the desk anyway...

Mary

Well errr....

Narrator

Mary, **this place is a tip**. That means it's really messy. It's time to put your foot down. It's your room too so she will have to compromise – you'll have to ask her to tidy up – and set some ground rules – you know, the basic rules of how something should be done.

Mary

Oh OK. Abi... it's great that we're going to be roommates but **could we set some ground rules please? Would you mind keeping the room a bit more tidy? It would be a great help if I could have some space on the desk to put my things.** And err... maybe you could keep your things on your side of the room and I'll look after this side? **Would that be a reasonable compromise?**

Abi

Oh, well, I suppose so.

Narrator

Well done Mary! This place **looks like a bomb's gone off** – it's really untidy! And if you don't say what you want then you won't get it. Even though you're the new girl, Abi will hopefully see that you're not to be messed with. Here are those phrases again...

Could we set some ground rules please?

Would you mind... keeping the room a bit more tidy?

It would be great if I could have some space on the desk to put my things.

Would that be a reasonable compromise?

Visit bbclearningenglish.com to practise these phrases and learn more about student accommodation in the UK. Now, has Abi agreed to tidy up this **pigsty** – this horrible messy room?

Abi

Well Mary, you're a bit bossy but I think we're going to get on very well...

Daniel

Anyone at home?

Mary

Oh no not him!

Daniel

Hi Mary, I found out that this was your room...

Abi

Hey Mary who's this loser? Stick with me Mary and I'll introduce you to lots of guys at Freshers' Week.