



Unit 6 - Housing

Leases and Rent

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Objectives By the end of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Describe the purpose of a lease agreement.
- Explain the importance of paying rent and utilities on time.

Time 20 – 25 minutes

Materials A sample lease, *Welcome to the United States* DVD, Mercy Housing booklets (housing summary in English, Karen, and Burmese)¹

Procedure

- With participants still in their groups from the previous exercise, explain that you will show a video about housing information in the U.S. Ask participants to listen carefully to the information as it is very important. Tell the class that you will be asking questions afterward.
- Show the *Welcome to the United States* DVD segment on housing.
- After showing, distribute a sample lease, and ask questions such as:
 - What is a lease?
 - Why do you have to sign it?
 - What information is in a lease?
 - What do you have to do before signing a lease?
 - What will happen if you violate the terms of the lease?
 - What if the landlord does?
 - Can you pay your rent late? Why or why not?
 - Besides monthly rent, do you have to pay anything else?
- Solicit and answer any remaining questions.

Assessment

Ask participants to explain what a lease is and why it is important. Ask them to list additional housing expenses in addition to rent.

¹ The second resource found here: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resources/publications.htm>; multiple languages available.