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How Do You Rate As A Roomie?

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“How do you rate as a roomie?”

by Gail Deven
Home Economics Sophomore

MAY I BORROW your pink formal, Roomie?”
“You don’t care if I type while you sleep, do you?” “I’ll clean up that heap on the bed this weekend, Roomie.” These are sandpaper sentences certain to create static in college living and to turn a potential pal into a frustrated roommate.

Try this little quiz and discover whether you are the frustrating or the frustrated.

Part I. Choose the best one
1. You have to type a theme for English tomorrow and your roommate is in bed—Should you . . .
   a) Go in the phone booth or an empty room and use your typewriter on a thick bath towel?
   b) Go into another room where they are still awake?
   c) Type it in your own room because your roommate types in the morning before you get up?
2. You’re invited to a fraternity party over the weekend and you simply don’t have a thing to wear. What’ll you do now?
   a) Wear your roommate’s new blue sheath, since she said that you could wear any of her clothes you wanted.
   b) Wear an old dress of your own and borrow gloves and a scarf of hers that match.
   c) Go down town and buy a new dress.
3. Roomie doesn’t volunteer to help clean up the room and you think it needs a cleaning. How do you convey the idea tactfully?
   a) Refuse to help clean it until she realizes that you can’t find your desk.
   b) Suggest that you both come home after class early and clean it together.
   c) Call up a maid and take it easy.
4. You haven’t taken a course on interior decorating, yet you’d like to have the “most unique” room in the dorm. What now?
   a) Call it the city zoo and bring all of your stuffed animals to add to the atmosphere.
   b) Each of you bring your own things and decorate your part of the room according to personal taste.
   c) Go “collegiate” with plaid bed spreads and curtains—also bulletin boards and book cases.
5. Rather than having a new acquaintance for a roommate your roommate is a friend from high school. How do you make new friends?
   a) Join in everything the corridor does as a group and become a part of their activities.
   b) Be choosy about the friends you have. Talk everyone over with each other before you are friendly to them.
   c) Work on dorm committees and get to know all of the girls in the dorm.
   d) Stick with Roomie. You know each other and you’re going to be just like you were in high school.

Part II. Answer yes or no.
1. Do your closets bulge with clothes that are always hung up?
2. If your mother looked under your bed would she be ashamed of you?
3. Do you know where the dust mops and brooms are kept?
4. Do you make use of them often?
5. When your roomie studies do you listen to KMRI’s “Rock and Roll” music?
6. Do you repay your IOU’s promptly?
7. Is your room livable or is there a line of demarkation between “mine” and “hers?”

Part III. Study the sentences below and choose the word that applies to you.
1. I (always/sometimes) consider other’s wishes before my own.
2. (Sometimes/most of the time) I can’t stand criticism.
3. I (often/seldom) lose my temper.
4. I try out for (all/some) activities at school.
5. I (never/sometimes) confide personal things to my friends.
6. If I put my mind to it, there’s (nothing/little) I can’t do.
7. I (sometimes/never) pretend to be ill when I’m not.
8. When I’m wrong about something I (usually/always) apologize.
9. I (usually/hardly ever) do my studying before the last minute.
10. I’ve been (completely/mostly) honest in answering this entire quiz.

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Answers To Quiz—Page 11

Part I.
1. The key word is "consideration." Be considerate of "roomie" and others in your corridor. Choose letter (a).
2. Answer (b) and remember not to borrow any expensive articles from anyone. If you're willing smaller articles are usually better to borrow.
3. Letter (b) should be fairly obvious. Work out a cleaning schedule between the two of you to follow in cleaning your room.
4. You've outgrown most of your teddy bears by now—leave them home. Have a compatible decor in your room and choose serviceable "collegiate" letter (c).
5. You may think you won't have any problems because you know who your roommate will be, but you may find you know each other too well. Meet others and make new friends too. Select (a) and (c).

Give yourself 5 points for every answer agreed upon.

Part II.
1. Yes. You may be crowded but be sure to hang clothes up.
2. No. Your mother wouldn't want to find any lost articles would she?
3. Yes. If you don't know where dust mops are kept you'd better find them.
4. Yes. At least sweep up every day with a thorough cleaning once a week.
5. No. Some people "say" they can study with "Rock and Roll" but you'll find you both concentrate better with soft music or none at all.
6. Yes. It's a bad policy to borrow money but be sure to pay your debt promptly if you don't want to be a "pocketbook pest."
7. Yes. Remember both of you will be "living" here for nine months. Score yourself 3 points for each correct "yes or no" answer.

Part III.
1. sometimes; 2. sometimes; 3. seldom; 4. some; 5. sometimes; 6. little; 7. never; 8. always; 9. usually.

Add two points for every correct answer in this group.

If your answer for No. 10 is "mostly" subtract 5 points from your total score.

If your score is 30-40 don't blame your roommate for any problems. You need to improve your relationships. If your score is 40-50 you're on the way but something is still needed. 50-60 shows that you're trying and with a little effort you're going to have a great year together.

If you and your roommate both have a score of 60-65 you should get along fine this year. You can easily talk about your problems and solve anything that comes up. If your scores were over 65 you'd better take the test again, because there aren't that many points possible. Be honest. That's a good point for all roommates.