



Housing Services

Roommate Agreement

You are lucky! Students at Al Akhawayn University come from many different regions and countries and bring with them various customs and beliefs. Your roommate may be from the same geographical area as you, or from a different part of the world. This is your chance to learn a great deal about cultures different from your own. You must also realize that some cultures interact with people in different ways. Ask your roommate if you are not sure, then respect your differences.

The challenge is to create relationships based on respect and understanding of your roommate's personal life while appreciating diversity and cultural differences. The rewards can be greater cultural knowledge and friendships that can last a lifetime.

COMMUNICATION

Setting expectations and clear communication are the foundation to build a strong and healthy relationship with your roommate. Spending time with your roommate might seem awkward at first. Ask questions that will help you learn about each other and build on your similarities. Some specific topics can be discussed that will open the door to a greater understanding of you and your roommate. Please use the following discussion guide as the first step in the Roommate Agreement process.

Where are you from?
What are your favorite things to do?
What is your major?



Now that you know a little about your roommate as a person, it is time to talk about expectations and set some guidelines for living in the same room. Be open with your needs but also be willing to compromise. Discuss the issues that roommates typically disagree about.

Even the best roommates disagree on certain issues, and you may have not been able to plan ahead for such conflict. Conflicts usually occur when changes are needed and when behaviors, thoughts and feelings need to be re-examined. Don't be afraid to confront your roommates about what is bothering you. If you know how to deal with conflict positively and productively, all involved can benefit from the situation. Don't wait until the problem grows out of proportion to discuss it. Listening to your roommate can solve little disagreements before they become large arguments. (See page 3)

When trying to resolve conflict, flexibility and understanding can make the process much easier. Be willing to give and take, and do not expect your roommate to view things the same way as you do. Resolving conflict also requires compromise. Don't strive for an ideal situation, strive for a workable resolution. And finally, don't forget to respect your roommate and his or her feelings. Try putting yourself in your roommate's shoes.

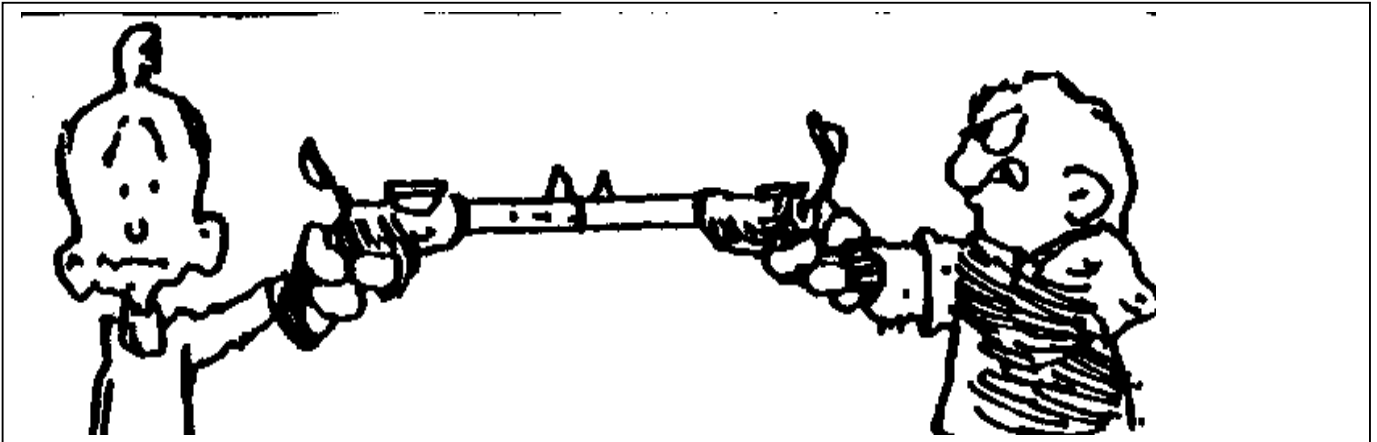
GROUND RULES OF SUCCESSFUL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 1-Speak to your roommate directly .
To resolve conflict, communicate with each other on a one-to-one equal basis and avoid behavior that will break down.
- 2- Each roommate should take a turn describing his/her perception of the situation, how he or she feels about it and what he/she wants. Remember that everyone involved is an equal and should have equal rights to be heard in the discussion
- 3- Together, come to an agreement on the described situation and on what the conflict is. Ask your roommate to reverse positions, i.e., to stand in your shoes while you stand in his or hers .
- 4- Everyone should agree to be willing to compromise something to come up with a solution.
- 5- Talk about what changes will be needed to bring about the acceptable situation.
- 6- Come to an agreement but don't put your roommate on the spot by insisting on an immediate response to your demands. If possible, give each other time (at least overnight) to think over a specific demand or suggested cause of action.
- 7- Make a commitment to make the necessary changes.



If a solution cannot be reached by the roommate, the next step is to ask your Hall Director who can serve as impartial mediator or arbitrator. Roommate changes are only used after other methods of resolving conflict have been tried. Room changes are granted at the discretion of the Housing Supervisors and are based on space availability.

AGREEMENTS



Studying

We agreed on the following schedule(s)

.....
Noise tolerances when studying.....

.....
Activities which have priority in the room:

.....
Can we study with the TV or radio on?

With visitors in the room?

Sleeping

Sleeping habit we agreed on:

We agreed to get up and go to bed :.....

.....
Schedules affecting our sleep habits:

.....
Noise/light tolerance when sleeping:

Guests and Visitation Hours

How often can guests come over?

When are the worst/best times?
.....

If guests are visiting when you need privacy, how will that be handled?

Cleaning

How often and how thoroughly will the room be cleaned?

Who will do what to clean the room?

What is intolerable?

How often do we remove trash?

What goes immediately to the garbage room?

How would you like the room be arranged and decorated?

.....
.....

Utilization of Space

How often do we want to change things?

What about room facilities?

What temperature do we feel comfortable with in the room (windows open, very hot, etc.)?

When is it too late or early for us to make or receive phone calls?

How will we handle priority calls?

Use of Possessions/Security

What items can be shared without permission?

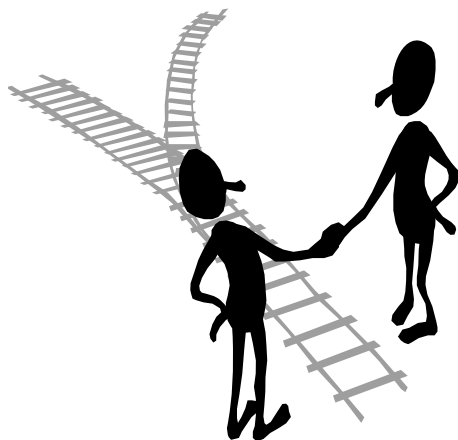
What items may only be used by asking the owner's permission?

What items may only be used by the owner?

What is our policy on other's access to our room and possessions?

Do you mind if guests use items in the room?

Do you mind if someone else uses the key of our the room?



We, the residents: student 1: _____

Student 2: _____

of room.....in bldg.....agree to the terms we've listed above.

Signature 1.....

Date:

Signature 2 :

Date:

H.D. Signature:

Date:

