Living Alone vs. With Roommates

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Living Alone 101

★ Personal Space
★ Don’t have to worry about anyone else’s preferences/ disturbing them
★ Can invite other people over whenever you want
★ Create your own schedule
★ Can get an apartment that suits YOUR needs; don’t have to compromise (eg: location, rent, size)
★ More expensive :( 
★ Chores can get tedious
Living with Roommates - The Pros

- Cheaper
- Social fulfillment
- Someone to problem solve with
- Someone to run errands (this is great when you’re sick!)
- Someone to share household chores with
Living with Roommates - The Cons

★ You have to share your space
  ○ It isn’t fully your own!
★ More roommates = more mess
★ More intimate
★ Different sleep schedules, levels of cleanliness, etc. can cause conflict
★ If you want to confront someone about something, you have to say it directly to them
Living with Roommates - Choosing your Roommates

★ Choosing the right roommates is KEY to preventing future conflict
★ Consider levels of cleanliness, sleep schedules, personality types, study habits, etc.
★ Your best roommate ISN’T ALWAYS your best friend
Boundaries

★ Establish roommate agreements early on
  ○ Bedroom situation
  ○ Similar sleeping and noise habits?
  ○ Levels of cleanliness
  ○ Understanding how much you want to hang out (if you’re friends)
    ■ You don’t HAVE to spend every minute with your roommate
★ Talk about showers: When are you showering
★ Guest spending the night
★ Inviting people over
★ Understand that what is okay for you is not necessarily okay for everyone
★ COMMUNICATION IS KEY
Resources

https://www.mcgill.ca/students/housing/files/students.housing/good_neighbor_guide.pdf
