



# Before We Move In Together: Your Compatibility & Clarity Kit

Conversation starters, financial worksheets, and checkpoint questions to help you decide with confidence—not just convenience.

# The "Why Are We Doing This?" Worksheet

Before you sign a lease, get clear on your intentions. Moving in together is a significant step that deserves thoughtful consideration—not just a decision made out of convenience or because it feels like "what comes next." This worksheet helps you explore your true motivations and ensures both partners are moving forward with aligned expectations.

Answer these questions honestly, separately at first, then come together to compare your responses. The goal isn't to have identical answers—it's to understand each other's perspectives and identify any gaps that need discussion.



## What's your primary reason?

- Financial savings
- Convenience
- Relationship progression
- Testing compatibility
- Something else entirely



## The money question

If money weren't a factor, would you still want to live with your partner right now? This question cuts through practical justifications to reveal your emotional readiness.




## Success looks like...

Complete this: "I'll know living together is working if..." Your answer reveals what matters most to you about cohabitation.



## Warning signs

Complete this: "I'll know it's time to reconsider if..." Naming your boundaries now protects both of you later.

 **Red flag check:** If your answers feel significantly different from your partner's, pump the brakes and talk it through before signing anything.

# The Money Conversation: Breaking the Ice

## How to start this conversation

"Hey, before we move forward with this, I want us to talk openly about money—not because I don't trust you, but because I want us both to feel secure and clear about expectations. Can we walk through some logistics together?"

Money conversations feel vulnerable, but avoiding them creates far more problems than having them ever could. Financial stress is one of the leading causes of relationship conflict, and most of that stress comes from mismatched expectations rather than actual dollar amounts.

This conversation isn't about judgment—it's about building a foundation of transparency and teamwork. Approach it with curiosity, not criticism. You're on the same team, working toward a shared goal: a living situation that works for both of you.

# Financial Clarity: The Essential Questions

Financial transparency is the bedrock of successful cohabitation. These questions help you create a clear financial framework before you move in together. Take your time with each one—these aren't just logistics, they're the practical foundation of your partnership.

1

## Current Financial Snapshot

Share your monthly income, fixed expenses, existing debt (and type), and current savings. This creates baseline understanding and helps you make informed decisions about what's affordable.

2

## Expense Splitting Strategy

Will you split 50/50, proportionally based on income, or use another arrangement? There's no "right" answer—only what feels fair to both of you.

3

## Shared vs. Separate

Define clearly what expenses you'll share (rent, utilities, groceries) and what you'll keep separate (personal subscriptions, individual discretionary spending).

4

## Unexpected Costs

How will you handle surprises like car repairs or medical bills? Having this conversation now prevents resentment later.

5

## Account Structure

Will you open a joint account for shared expenses, keep everything separate with transfer apps, or use a hybrid approach?

6

## The Exit Strategy

Uncomfortable but necessary: If you break up, who keeps the apartment? Can either afford the rent alone? How much notice will you give each other?

# The Compatibility Checkpoint

Before you move in together, these questions help you understand each other's daily rhythms, conflict styles, future visions, and lifestyle preferences. You don't need identical answers—you need awareness of differences and strategies to bridge them.



## Logistics & Daily Life

- What does your ideal morning routine look like?
- How clean is "clean enough" for you?
- Are you an early bird or night owl?
- How much alone time do you need daily?
- How do you decompress after stress?



## Conflict & Communication

- When upset with me, how do you handle it?
- What's your relationship with silence during arguments?
- How were conflicts handled in your family growing up?
- What's one thing I do that frustrates you but you haven't mentioned?



## Future & Values

- Where do you see yourself in 3 years? 5 years?
- How important is marriage and what's your timeline?
- Do you want children? How many? When?
- What role does family play in your life?
- What are your non-negotiables in partnership?



## Lifestyle & Expectations

- How do you feel about friends or family staying over?
- What does "quality time" look like to you?
- How should we balance savings versus experiences?
- What household tasks do you absolutely hate doing?

# The First 30 Days: What to Expect

The first month of living together is a journey through distinct phases. Understanding what's normal helps you navigate challenges without panicking. This timeline gives you a framework for what to observe, when to intervene, and how to check in with yourself and your partner.

## Week 1: The Honeymoon

Everything feels new and exciting. This week, just notice patterns without judgment. Observe how you each handle stress after work, who initiates household tasks first, and how you naturally divide space.

1

## Mid-Month Check-In

Have one "how's it going?" conversation. Try this: "Living together has been [great/an adjustment]. One thing I want more of is \_\_\_\_\_. One thing I want to be better at is \_\_\_\_\_. How's it feeling for you?"

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## Week 2-3: The Adjustment

The novelty fades and minor annoyances surface. This is completely normal. Notice what small habits are starting to grate on you, how you handle frustration (speak up or stew silently?), and whether you're still making time for connection or just coexisting.

## Week 4: The Reality

By now, you're in a rhythm—good or challenging. Ask yourself: Do I still feel excited to come home? Are we solving problems together or keeping score? Do I feel more connected or more distant? Am I showing up as my best self or feeling resentful?

# Reading the Signs: Green, Yellow, and Red Flags

After your first month together, you'll have gathered valuable data about how you function as cohabitating partners. Here's how to interpret what you're experiencing. Remember: yellow flags aren't dealbreakers—they're invitations to have conversations and make adjustments.

## ● Green Flags

Easy collaboration in daily tasks, mutual respect for each other's space and needs, genuine laughter and lightness in your interactions, and willingness to adapt when something isn't working.

These signals indicate you're building a healthy foundation together.

## ● Yellow Flags

Avoiding difficult conversations instead of addressing them, noticing uneven household labor but not discussing it, feeling "off" but unable to name exactly why.

Yellow flags are your cue to pause and communicate before small issues become big problems.

## ● Red Flags

Walking on eggshells around your partner, increasing criticism or defensiveness in daily interactions, emotional withdrawal or shutting down, blame instead of shared problem-solving.

Red flags require immediate attention—either through honest conversation or professional support.

# The Quarterly Review: Keeping Your Partnership Strong

Every three months, schedule a "relationship inventory" check-in. This isn't about finding problems—it's about staying proactive and connected. Regular check-ins normalize difficult conversations and keep small frustrations from becoming major resentments.

Set aside uninterrupted time with no phones and no distractions. Take turns sharing without interrupting. The goal isn't to defend your position—it's to hear each other clearly and adjust together as a team.

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**What's working well about living together?**

Start with gratitude and appreciation. Name specific moments or patterns that make you happy.

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**What's one thing I wish was different?**

Focus on one specific, actionable item rather than a laundry list of complaints.

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**Rate your satisfaction (1-10 scale)**

Assess communication, division of household labor, financial partnership, emotional intimacy, and future alignment. Numbers make vague feelings concrete.

04

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**How can I show up better this quarter?**

Take ownership of your role in the partnership. What's one concrete way you can improve?

05

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**What do I need more of from my partner?**

Be specific about your needs. "More quality time" becomes "I'd love to have phone-free dinners three times a week."

# Trust Yourself: Your Next Steps

You've done the work. Now trust yourself. Cohabitation isn't a referendum on your relationship's worth—it's simply information. Use this kit to gather data, have brave conversations, and make decisions that honor both your practical needs and your heart's wisdom.

**If you're feeling clear and confident:** Beautiful. Keep checking in with each other regularly, and don't let the daily grind replace intentional connection. Schedule those quarterly reviews and stay curious about each other.

**If you're feeling uncertain:** That's okay too. Uncertainty isn't failure—it's honesty. Maybe you need more time. Maybe you need couples counseling. Maybe you need to rethink the timeline. All of these responses are valid.

**If you're feeling stuck:** Reach out. We're here to listen without judgment and help you hear yourself more clearly. Sometimes the wisest thing we can do is ask for guidance.

"A relationship that can't handle honest questions isn't strong enough for a shared lease."

# We're Here to Support You

You don't have to navigate this decision alone. Whether you need clarity on a specific question, support working through difficult conversations, or simply a compassionate sounding board, we're here for you.

Questions? We're here to help.

**WhatsApp:** +254 720 202 299

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With you on the path,

**The Arcane Guides Team**

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Remember: The goal isn't a perfect living situation—it's one where both people feel heard, respected, and able to grow together. That starts with the courage to ask honest questions and the wisdom to listen to the answers.