

# BETTER MONEY HABITS HIGH SCHOOL LESSON: THE TRUE COST OF MOVING TO A NEW PLACE

## HANDOUT 3.1 – A MOVING EXPERIENCE: HOW MUCH

List all the potential move-in costs you could encounter when moving to a new place as presented in the video. The first one is listed for you.

### Fees and Deposits Before Moving

1. **Apartment Application Fee** (including a background and credit check).  
Usual Cost = \$50.00

Note: Potential landlords might also want copies of:

- A. Recent pay stubs
- B. Letter of employment from your workplace
- C. Proof of any assets you might have (e.g. savings account)

2. **Deposit.** An amount equal to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ month's rent.

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

This assures the landlord that you won't leave abruptly without paying before the end of your lease. If you do, at least they're covered for a month to clean the space and find a new tenant.

If the rent is \$775, the first and last month's rent is equal \$\_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Deposit.** An amount equal to \_\_\_\_\_ month's rent.

This deposit is to ensure that you'll leave the space in the condition that you found it. If you leave the place undamaged, you *should* get this deposit back when you move out.

If the rent is \$775, this deposit is equal to \$\_\_\_\_\_.

4. **Finder's Fee.**

You may need to pay a finder's fee if you need help finding a place, which tends to happen in an area where the housing market is very competitive (or a location that is unfamiliar to you). If you are moving into such an area, you might work with a real estate agent that specializes in apartment location. In this case, you may need to pay a fee or a commission to assist you in finding a place to live. Such fees are generally 10 percent of the annual rent, but the amount can be negotiable.

If the rent is \$775, the finder's fee is equal to \_\_\_\_\_.

(To calculate the answer, 10% of the annual rent is \$775 times \_\_\_\_\_ months = \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Then, 10% of that amount is \$\_\_\_\_\_.)

