Name	
	Section

An EFL lesson based on the web site Intermediate

2-3 class periods/Prerequisite: writing practice in comparison/contrast

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Updated and revised October 16, 2002

Visit http://iteslj.org/t/ws/ for the latest version of this lesson and similar lessons.

This web site allows the consumer to take "virtual" tours (i.e., view 360-degree photos) of apartments and apartment complexes anywhere in the United States, comparing prices, amenities, etc. Prospective tenants can even search for properties near given universities and military bases, arrange household-goods shipping, rent furniture and perform other functions. The lesson is heavily oriented toward writing descriptions and comparisons and contrasts of various properties, although there are also reading/research sections.

What shall I do?

1. On the front page of www.forrent.com, click on Search Apartments. On the next page, find this box (below) and choose Tampa in the state of Florida in the box (FL = Florida)

OR	
search for apartments in your desired mo area	etropolitan
FL, Tampa	•

and then click on . On the next page, you'll see a box full of "Selected Amenities." Next to <u>Select number of bedrooms</u>, choose bedrooms and baths . Next, for the "Select Price Range," select from \$250 to \$750. Now go down to "Select required amenities," and select <u>Pool</u>, <u>cable/satellite</u> and <u>air conditioning</u>. Click on See Refined Results >>>.

On the next page, choose one of the nice-looking apartments. Click on the picture. On the next page, look at the prices. How much is the rent for a two-bedroom apartment? \$______.

- 2. Do they state square feet of the apartment? (Look in the SQ FT column) Yes/No
- 3. Are pets allowed? Yes/No

4. How many minutes is the complex from downtown Tampa? mins.	
5. Now click on the Virtual Tour (to the right of the picture). You will see revolving 3 degree pictures for the guest bedroom, the pool, the living area, and others. Look at althem.	
6. Now write a short paragraph describing the pool. What does it look like? For examis it surrounded by lots of trees and nice buildings? How is it shaped? Do you like inot, and why?	
7. Next, choose any apartment in Tampa that has a Virtual Tour symbol. Take the Vir Tour of the pool and compare and contrast it with the first pool that you just descri in #6 above. At the end of your paragraph, tell us which one you like more, and why.	

w.forrent.com	3
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8. Now click on New Search. We are going to click on the same box we con Page 1 of this paper, "search for apartments in your desired metropolitan area and click Search again.	id i"

Your teacher will circle the one you should choose:

CA, Los Angeles	CA, San Diego	CA, San Francisco	FL, Miami
NV, Las Vegas	TX, Houston	UT, Salt Lake City	WA, Seattle
AL, Mobile	AZ, Phoenix	CO, Boulder	CO, Colorado Springs
FL, Orlando	LA, New Orleans	FL, Ft. Lauderdale	TX, San Antonio
HI, Honolulu	RI, Providence	CA, Orange County	FL, Sarasota

Next, select the same criteria as you did for Lighthouse Bay. Do you remember? \$500-\$750/one bedroom and one bath/pool/cable or satellite/air conditioning. Click on See Refined Results. Choose an apartment complex that has a **one-bedroom apartment** for less than \$750.

9. Name of apartment complex		
10. Price for one bedroom/month		
11. Square feet		
12. Look at the amenities in the apartment complex and in the box below check ones available.	√	the

Amenity	✓	Amenity	✓
Personal fitness trainer		Fitness center	
Spa/Pool		Microwave	
Sauna		Washer/dryer in unit	
Garage		Dishwasher	
Extra storage		Pets allowed	
Furnished available		Club house	
Garbage disposal		View	
Walk-in closets		Child care	
Carpet		Controlled access	
Cable/satellite		Business center	
Corporate housing		Ceiling fans	
Internet access		Tile floors	
Short-term lease		Disability access	
Playground		Window covering	

13. Now go to the home page by clicking on the Forrent.com logo. Near the top, do you see *NEW!* Now search for apartments near <u>colleges</u>? Click on the <u>colleges</u> link. On the next page, choose "within 10 miles." Next, select the college/university that your teacher has circled for you below. You **don't** need to select any other requirements or amenities.

American University	Arizona State	Bowling Green State	San Francisco State
	University	University	University
University of	University of Florida	University of	Florida International
California—Berkeley		Houston—Clear Lake	University
Florida Atlantic	University of	University of Illinois at	University of
University	Colorado	Chicago	Nevada- Las Vegas
University of New	Tulane University of	California State	Cardinal Stritch
Orleans	Louisiana	University—Long Beach	College
College of William and	Northwestern	University of Miami	University of San
Mary	University	-	Diego

Now, find a one-bedroom apartment for less than \$900 (except in San Francisco and Berkeley, where the limit is \$1300)

14. Which state (California, Florida, etc.) is your college located in?
You may use the two-letter abbreviation of the state, which comes after the town
For example, when you see Falls Church, VA in the apartment address, VA is the
state. It stands for Virginia, but you can just write "VA."
Which town/city is it in?
15. Price Sq ft Pool (yes/no)
16. Read all the information, take the virtual tour and describe the apartments. Write a short letter to your friend describing your new residence.
Dear: