

Apartment Terminology

Abbreviation	Full Term	Definition
a/c, air	Air conditioning	Air conditioning units in rooms (may also mean central air conditioning)
appl, apls	Appliances	Some combination of the following: Electricity, gas, refrigerator, range, stove, dishwasher, microwave, and garbage disposal
Apt	Apartment	Apartment unit (rather than a house)
Avail, avl	Available (example: avail Aug 1)	Date when unit can be occupied
Ba	Bath	Full bathroom ((toilet, sink, and bath or shower)
½ ba	Half bath	Toilet and sink but no bath or shower
Balc	Balcony	
Bkr	Broker	The unit is shown by the broker or agent
Bldg.	Building	
Br, bdrm	Bedroom	Bedroom as a separate room
Bsmt	Basement	
Cent a/c, cac, c a/c	Center air conditioning	One air-conditioning system for the whole house or apartment
Cpt	Carpet	Usually the same as 'wall-to-wall carpeting" (w/w cpt)
Condo	Condominium	
Dep	Deposit	Money left with the landlord at the beginning of the lease to ensure that the apartment is returned in good condition at the end of the lease
Dr, din rm	Dining room	Dining room as separate room
Duplx	Duplex	Either (1) an apartment with a first and second floor or (2) a row house that shares one wall with another house
d/wash, dw	Dishwasher	
Dwnpymt	Down-payment	Initial deposit on house, usually as part of a purchase
Eff, effc, effcy	Efficiency	One room apartment, with small kitchen in the room, there is a separate full bathroom (same as a "studio")
e, g, c	Electricity, gas, Cable TV	
Elec	Electricity	
Elev	Elevator/Lift	
Eve, eves	Evenings, Evenings	
Exp bk	Exposed brick	The interior features exposed brick walls
Fee	Fee, broker's fee	Fees paid to rental broker who lists the apartment and shows it to potential renters
Flr, flrs	Floor, floors	
Fp, fpl	Fireplace	
Fr	Family room	Also called a living room (lr)
Fridge	Refrigerator	
Full ba	Full bath	Toilet, sink, and bath/shower
Furn	Furnished	Includes basic furniture, usually a bed, dining room table and chairs, and some living room furniture
Gar	Garage	
Grt	Great	Advertising hyperbole, as in "grt loc" (great location)

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Gym	Gym	Gym or health club in the building
Hlth	Health club	Health club or gym in the building
Hook-ups, hkup	Hook-up facilities for a dishwasher or washer/dryer	Plumbing and electricity have been arranged for a dishwasher or a washer/dryer, but the renters will have to provide the machines themselves
Hse	House	
Ht	Heat	
Ht/hw	Heath and hot water	
Imm occ	Immediate occupancy	
Immac	Immaculate	Refers to condition of unit (allegedly)
Inc, with	Included	Included in the unit or already included in the price
Inc util	Including utilities	Gas and electricity are included in the rental price
Indr prkg	Indoor parking	
Kit	Kitchen	
Kitchenette		Small kitchen
Loc	Location or located	
Lrg	Large	
Lr	Living room	
Lux	Luxury or luxurious	
Lv msg	Leave message	Leave a message stating you are interested
Mi	Mile	
Mba	Master bathroom	Large, well-equipped bath area
Mbr	Master bedroom	Large bedroom, usually with attached bathroom
Mrk	Market	
Mo	Month	
Mod	Modern	
Nego	Negotiable	Key elements of the lease such as rent or occupancy date are negotiable
No fee	No fee to be paid to broker	Broker who lists the apartment will be paid by the unit's owner, not the renter
Nr	Near	
Obo	Or best offer	Used in some sales ads, such as "\$30,000 OBO" (meaning that the seller is willing to negotiate)
Off st. prking, osp	Off-street parking	Unit includes a parking space
Owner cc	Owner occupied	Landlord lives in same building
Part furn	Partly furnished	Includes some furniture, such as a bed or dining table, but not full furnishings
Pd	Paid	
Pkng	Parking	Unit includes a parking space
Pl	Pool	Outdoor pool
Plus util, +util	Plus utilities	Monthly utility costs (for gas, electricity, etc.) are not included in the price
Prch, pch	Porch	
Prvt	Private	
Qt	Quiet	
Rec rm	Recreation room	Building or unit has a recreation room

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Refs req, refs reqd	References required	Tenant must supply names of people ready to say he/she is a good person and will pay the rent
Renov, renovtd, nwly renov	Renovated	Newly repaired and updated
Rd	Road	
Rfdk	Roof deck	Usable outdoor area on roof
Rm	Room	
Dep or sec dep or secur dep	Security deposit	Money left with landlord at the beginning to lease to ensure the apartment is returned in good condition at the end of the lease
Sep	Separate	
Sf	Square feet	Standard measure of unit size
Sm	Small	Always true, except for things that are really tiny
Spac	Spacious	Allegedly
Stu	Studio	One-room apartment, with small kitchen in the room, there is a separate full bathroom (same as an "efficiency")
Stv	Stove	
Svc	Service or services	
Terr	Terrace	
Twnhse	Townhouse	A row house with two or more floors and usually one or two shared walls, rather than a "freestanding" house with no shared walls
Trans, transp	Transportation	
u/g prkg	Underground parking	Indoor parking in an underground garage
Unfurn	Unfurnished	No furniture is in the unit
Util	Utilities	Electric, gas, water; seldom includes phone or cable TV
Vu	View	
w/	With	
w/d	Washer and dryer	Note that 'w/d' refers to a washer and dryer for clothes; 'd/wash' refers to a dishwasher
Wic, wlkin clo	Walk-in closet	A very large closet
w/w, w/w cpt	Wall-to-wall carpeting	
XInt	Excellent	
Yd	Yard	An outdoor area is included with the apartment or house

Taken from: Lipson, Charles. *Succeeding as an International Student in the United States and Canada*, 354-358. The University of Chicago Press. 2008.