Your First Job, Your First Lease

Applications, interviews, reading a real job offer, your first paycheck, and what to know before signing a lease.

Name: _____ Date: _____

OBJECTIVE

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- [ ] Resume with any work, volunteer, or school activities listed
- [ ] References lined up (ask permission first)
- [ ] Clean, professional social media
- [ ] Practiced answers to "Tell me about yourself"

READING A JOB OFFER

Look past the hourly rate or salary: ask about scheduled hours, overtime rules, whether tips are included, and when the first paycheck arrives.

Your first paycheck	Example: $800 biweekly
Gross pay	$800.00
FICA (Social Security & Medicare)	7.65%, fixed
Federal + state income tax	Varies by income and state
Net pay	What's left after all of the above

Using the table above: FICA takes 7.65% of the $800 gross. How much is that in dollars? If federal + state income tax together take another $88, what's the final net (take-home) pay? Show your work.

Before you sign a lease	What to know
Security deposit	Usually 1 month's rent, refundable if there's no damage
Lease term	Usually 12 months, breaking it early can cost you
What's included	Ask: water, trash, internet, parking?
Walkthrough	Photograph everything BEFORE you move in

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DISCUSS

If you and two roommates split a $1,500/month apartment three ways, what's each person's share? What happens if one roommate stops paying?