



EQUATION FOR THE PERFECT SCOTTISH FLATMATE

Wall to wall washing up, unpaid bills, personal space invaders - the days of flatsharing nightmares could become a thing of the past thanks to a new survey which reveals the equation for the perfect flatshare, as two thirds of Scots admit the worst thing about living with other people is that they don't clean up after themselves.

According to research carried out by Gumtree.com, the UK's largest flatshare website* the route to domestic harmony lies in the following equation:

$$\mathbf{PF = (C+M+F)^3 - (U+K+T)^0 \quad *}$$

Or comedian + cleaner + mediator = perfect flatshare. Nearly half of respondents (41 per cent) cited good sense of humour as the key to a happy home, with a laid-back attitude coming a close second (25 per cent) whilst 'klingons' – or people who won't give us our space – drive a third of Scots mad.

Relationship expert and life coach Christine Webber, who came up with the combination for the perfect flatshare, is not surprised by this result: "With more than a quarter of Brits are looking for a replacement family and 28 per cent saying they are looking for close friendships with flatmates, this survey truly shows that friends are the new family.

"The last 35 years have seen a social revolution in terms of people's living arrangements. Whereas a tiny minority in the 60's would leave home to work or study, it is now the norm and it is crucial to find the right flatshare.

"Untidiness is unacceptable to many flatsharers - not just because of the actual mess, but because it shows a clear lack of consideration and respect for others. As for the top 'must-have' being humour, this is extremely mentally healthy! There is plenty of research which demonstrates that laughter is the best medicine - and what could be better after a hard day's work or study than to come home to a joke and a laugh?"

Gumtree.com's Sophy Silver adds: "Living with someone you can call a friend is so important - 55 per cent of us are really keen to make sure that our home environment is a happy one. Whether we want a laugh, a lovely tidy home, a shoulder to cry on or someone we can trust to look out for us - it is crucial that we get our own personal equation right.

No matter what your preference, Gumtree is the ideal place to find flatmates. With over 10,000** listings every week you are bound to find your perfect flatmate."

Christine Webber concludes" "It's very good for us to learn to share, to respect other people, to accommodate others' foibles and to be aware of their space and time. The Gumtree survey is really useful because it helps us to make sure our homes are happy ones."

* C= Cleaner, M = Mediator, F = Funnyman, U = Untidy, K = Klingon, T = Thief

** Source Alexa.com Aug 06

Other regional findings:

- 16 of Scots can't bear people who won't pay their fair share of household bills
- 13% of Scots admit they are 'clean freaks' when it comes to housecleaning, and 13% say they are mother figures who love to listen
- 4% describe themselves as boys behaving badly round the house!
- A third of Scots share their living space to meet new people
- A quarter are driven mad by other people stealing their food!

Other national findings:

- 36 per cent of people think three people is the magic number when it comes to flatsharing, followed by 30 per cent who would prefer a foursome and 27 per cent who think two is the ideal combination
- Two thirds of people (60 per cent) think that people with more than five years between them shouldn't share a flat
- Considering how many of us want the perfect flatshare, it is interesting that more than half of respondents (54%) say they don't do much research when looking for flatmates and often make snap decisions.

With over 1,000 flatshare ads a day on Gumtree.com here is an example of what you could find:

- Group of friends looking for someone to come and join them in a house of fun. They are saving for a goat so they can have fresh goat's milk every morning
- Double room in large bed house, suit young professional particularly if you like watching/playing sport
- Double room with use of gym, jacuzzi, sauna and pool
- Guy looking for a place that is free from rodents and leaky pipes!