



The first shared apartment and our normal daily routine written from Frederik's perspective

After living in a host family for the first month, we have now moved in together into our own shared flat. Since it is the first time living on our own, we knew from the beginning that it would become a very interesting and memorable experience. It is a three-room apartment with 2 bedrooms for us 3 volunteers, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom. Here in Armenia for 3 people already quite big. Normally about five people live in such an apartment - privacy is a luxury good.

The bathroom consists of a toilet, a washbasin and a shower head, whereby the water simply flows into a hole in the middle of the bathroom. So theoretically you could sit on the toilet while taking a shower (who hasn't wished for that yet?). In addition, there is still a good barrel, filled with water in case the water is not running. This has already happened a few times in the meantime, but only for a few hours, however mostly in inappropriate situations. We have also been warned of power cuts, but luckily they haven't happened yet. We have often asked ourselves the question - What would be worse: not to have electricity or water? (My answer: Electricity would be worse, because you can buy water!) The kitchen is relatively normal, with a fridge, table, sink and stove/oven. The latter, however, were a big challenge for us at the beginning, because both are operated with gas and not with electricity. But after several weeks of operation we are slowly good at serving at least the stove, even if the food tasted really bad at the beginning. We haven't even used the stove yet, because it is quite dirty and we need to clean it still. Our fridge is almost empty most of the time, because we buy most of the ingredients when we need them: A bakery and a small shop are almost next door and within 2 minutes walking distance. There, we regularly buy our bread and fruits and vegetables. On top of that, fruits and vegetables taste really good here, because most of them come from countries not so far away. In the living room there are the normal furnishings: sofa, armchair and table. On the wall hangs a carpet, as with pensioners, which no longer seems to be the most modern. But we still like to stay here, because in this room there is a radiator, just like everything here, gas-powered. Both bedrooms are also connected to this room, in one of them Hermann and I sleep. In the other Simon sleeps, because he usually goes to bed last. In return, we always say, he has to do more in the household, as a kind of compensation.

Now that you know about our apartment, I can go over to my normal daily routine. Normally I am the first one to get up at about 8 o'clock and start taking a shower. Then I wake up Hermann, who then takes a shower himself. During this time I cook a little porridge for everyone so that we

can have breakfast together afterwards. Finally, I wake up Simon, who is responsible for washing the dishes and the pot after the meal. We eat breakfast together and then go to the bus at half past nine while Simon stays at home and does his job. Arriving at the office, we start working, mostly preparing our clubs.

Hermann and Simon conduct the *European Club* in three different schools. In these, they talk about European countries and various topics concerning those. I myself execute the *German Conversation Club*, in which I speak German to pupils from two different schools. The office work then lasts until 17 o'clock, whereby we have an hour lunch break in between. Furthermore, each day we take part in an Armenian language course allowing us to interact more with local people. Afterwards we take a bus, the public transportation here in Dilijan is quite reliable. There is one bus every 30 minutes. Then comes the moment when we remember that we still have to think about what we want to eat tonight. If we want to be lazy, we simply eat bread with pâté and tomato-cucumber salad. Otherwise, we think of a quick, easy recipe that doesn't need many ingredients, usually something with eggs, potatoes or noodles. If there is salad, then I usually season it, while the others cut it; the cooking person is different every day. We are always happy when the food at least tastes a little good. Let's see if we all become good cooks by the end of the year!