Workbook STEP 1—Home

Where do you live?

Everyone needs a place to live. Your home should feel safe, comfortable, and respectful. In Canada, whether to rent or buy a home may be a difficult decision. Documents, rules, and responsibilities may be new to you. When you understand your rights and duties, you protect your money, your safety, and your peace of mind.

Focus of Step 1—Home

Understanding documents for renting or buying a home helps you make better decisions. When you understand your rights, you protect:

- your money
- your safety
- your peace of mind

You can download a printable version of this workbook at hapy.ca/free resources.
You can write full sentences, simple words, or just notes. There are no wrong answers. This is your space.

Notes:

Plan Step 1—Home

Writing and planning helps you see your future more clearly. Take a few minutes to think about the home you want. Then about what you can do this year, and what small step you can take this week so you can get closer to your dream home.

Example: Plan in Step 1—Home

Challenge: Feeling like a stranger in a new place.

Vision – What you want in the future: I want my home to feel safe, calm, and welcoming.

Goals – What you want to achieve this year:

- Learn about local services
- Get to know my neighbourhood

Tasks – What you will do this week:

- Look for community events online
- Walk around the area and find a grocery store
- Say hello to one neighbour

Your plan—Home

Challenge:

Vision – What you want in the future:

Goals – What you want to achieve this year:

Tasks – What you will do this week:

Questions—Home

Ask yourself:
Do I feel safe walking here after dark?

Are stores, transit, schools, and clinics nearby?

Is public transport easy to reach?

Will I feel isolated here, or does the area feel welcoming?

Checklist—Renting a home in Canada

Renting a home is a big step. Asking clear questions helps you make a safe decision.
You can use these questions:

- to ask a landlord
- to practise your English or French
- to prepare before viewing a place

Questions for a landlord

Rent and bills

What is the total monthly rent?

What is included (heat, water, electricity, internet)?

If not included, what is the average cost?

Is parking included or extra?

Lease details

How long is the lease?

Can it become month-to-month later?

What happens if I need to leave early?

Home features and repairs

Are appliances included and working?

Who fixes problems, and how fast?

Will I have a private mailbox?

Rules

Are pets allowed?

Is smoking allowed?

Are there rules about guests?

Notes:

Pause and reflect

Remember: This is for you. You do not need to share your address with anyone.

Where do you live now?

Do you feel safe and comfortable?

What is one small action you can take this week to improve your housing situation?

Write one question to your landlord and send it by email.

Extra notes and reflections. Use this space for any questions or thoughts from the guide.