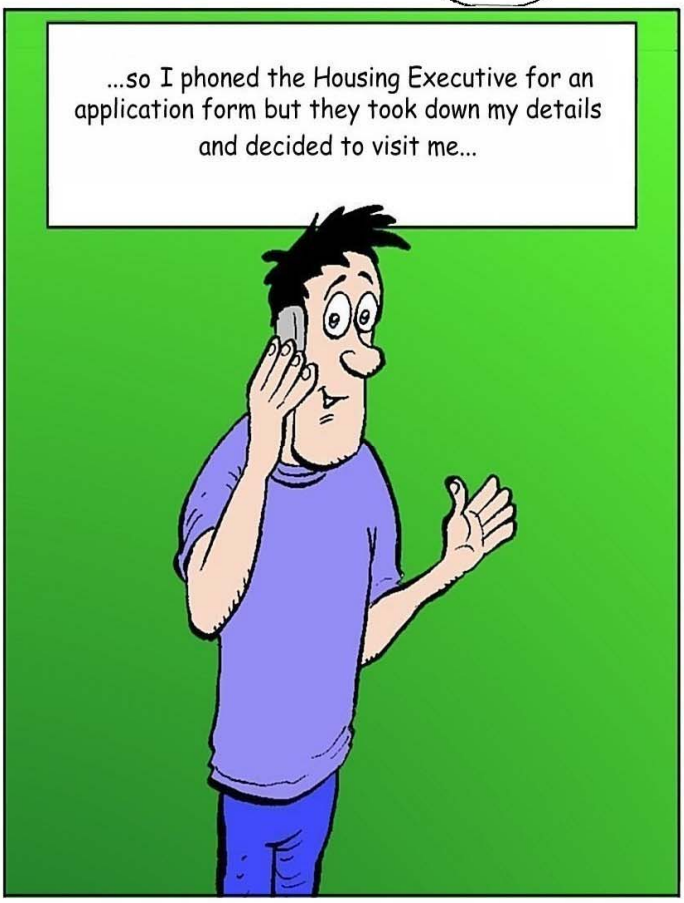
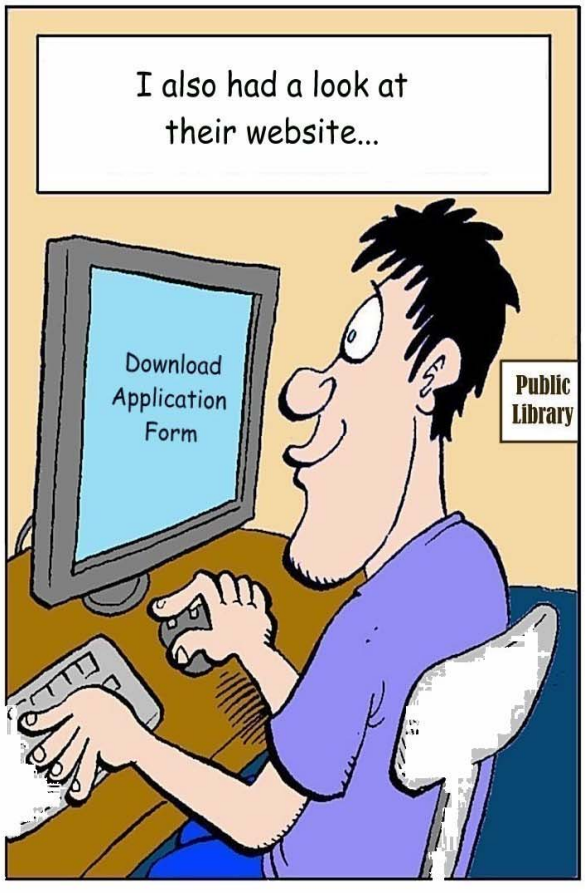
A FOOT IN THE DOOR

Nice gaff, mate-how did you get it?
Thanks, it took a while, and was a bit of a journey...

So, what happened?
I had been living with friends and for various reasons had to get a place of my own...


...so I phoned the Housing Executive for an application form but they took down my details and decided to visit me...

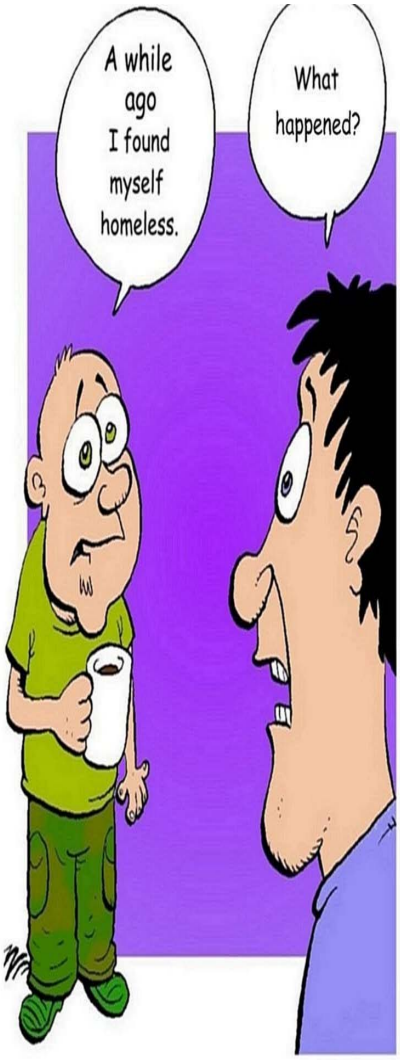

I also had a look at their website...
Download Application Form
Public Library

Then a Housing Officer visited me at the place where I had been staying...
Good morning, Mr.Youngman -I'm from the Housing Executive!
Come on in!

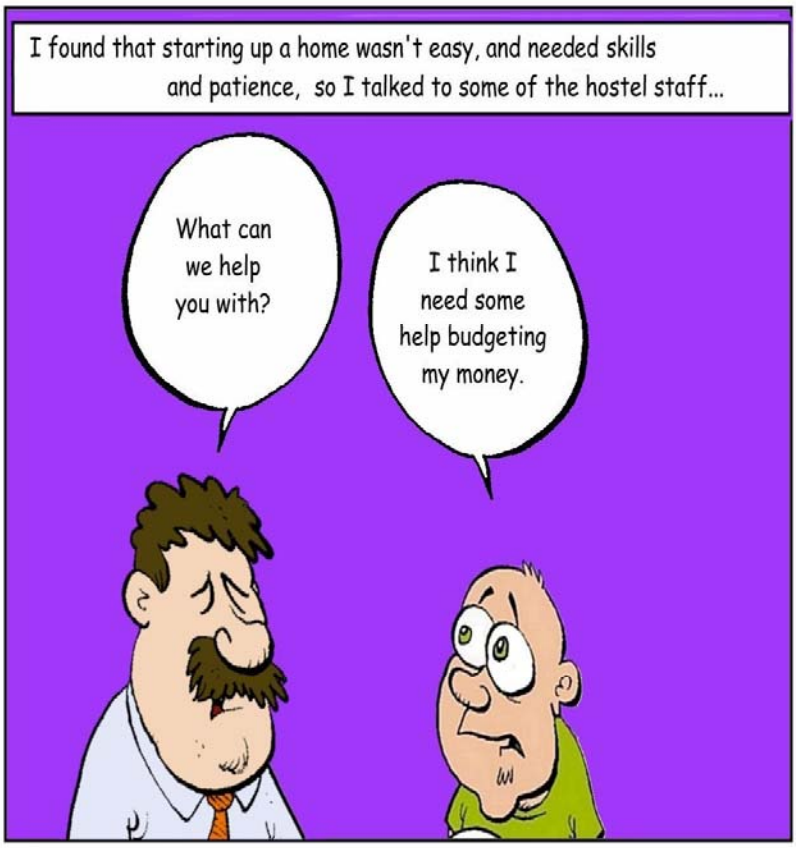
...and talked about my circumstances and options...
Now that we have gone through your application, you will be notified of your points and go on to the waiting list, but you might want to explore renting privately or other shared accommodation.
Thanks for all your help!

Sure enough, it wasn't long before they wrote and told me how many points I had...
Dear Mr Youngman, You have been awarded

My situation was really quite different...
Go on...



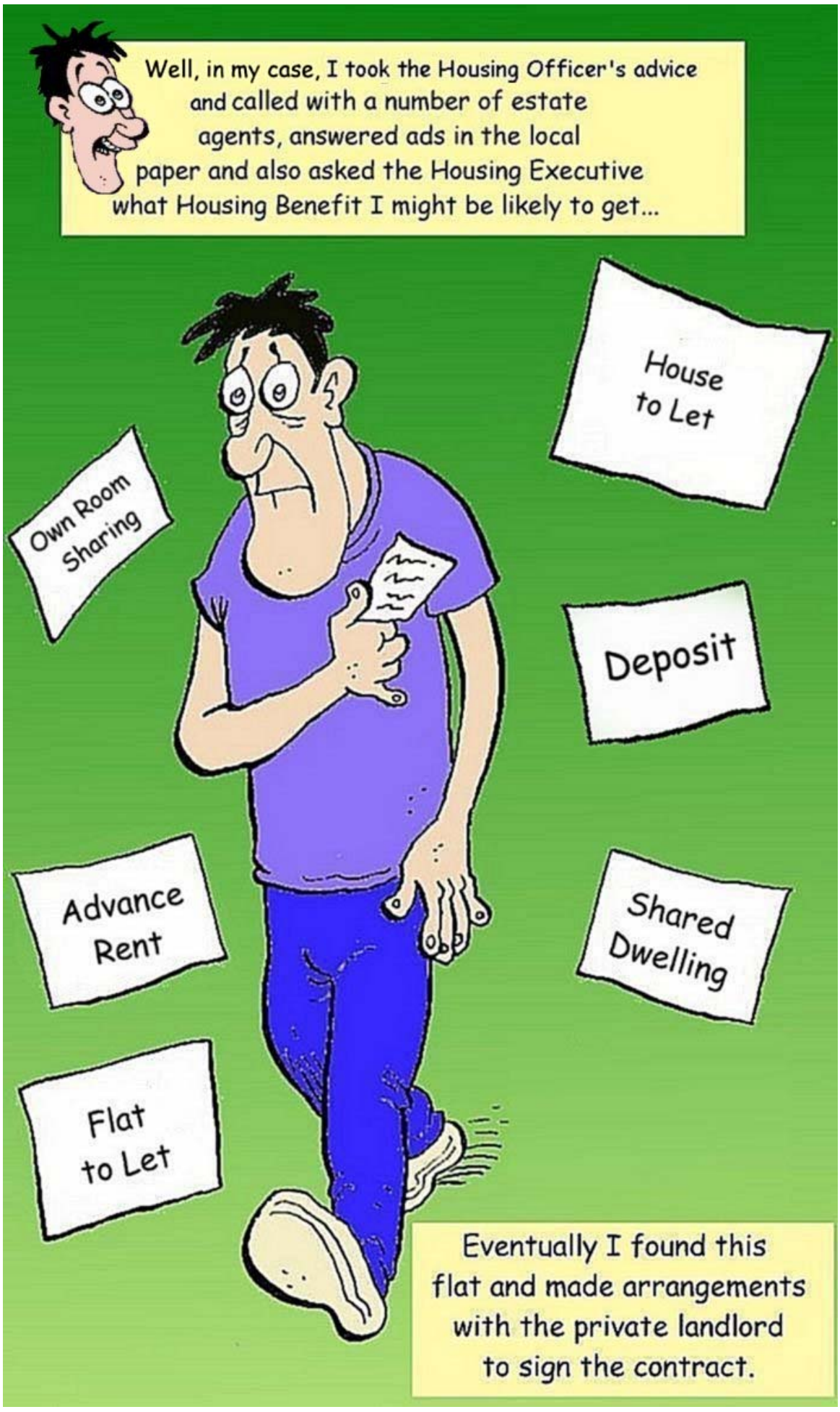
I found it difficult to live with other people and was there for longer than I had hoped, but...

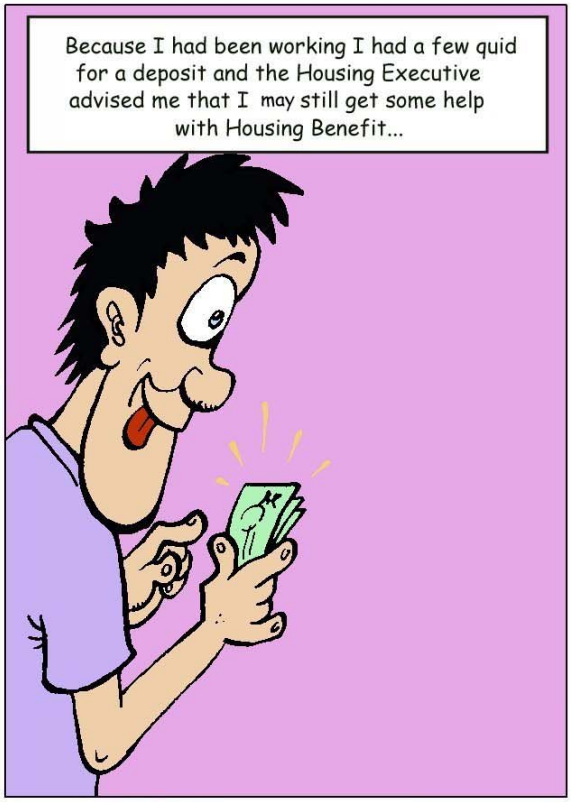

I found that starting up a home wasn't easy, and needed skills and patience, so I talked to some of the hostel staff...
What can we help you with?
I think I need some help budgeting my money.

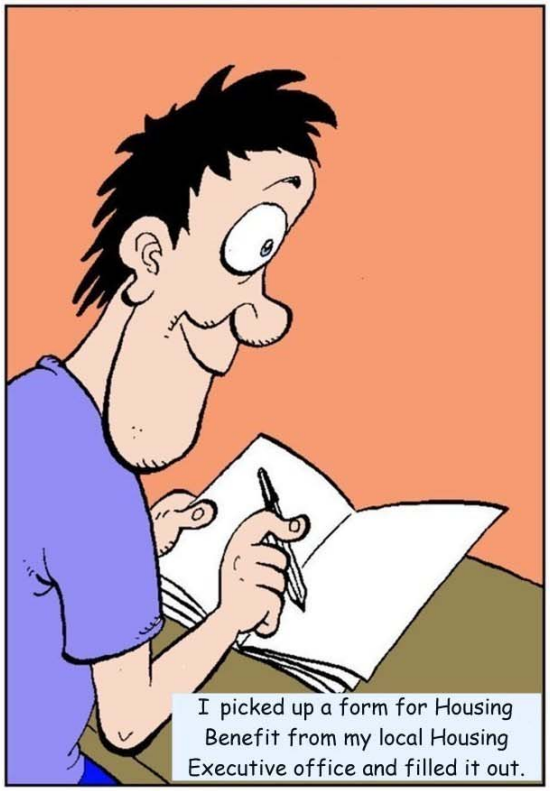
...Eventually, I found a place of my own...
FLATS TO LET
PROPERTY GUIDE

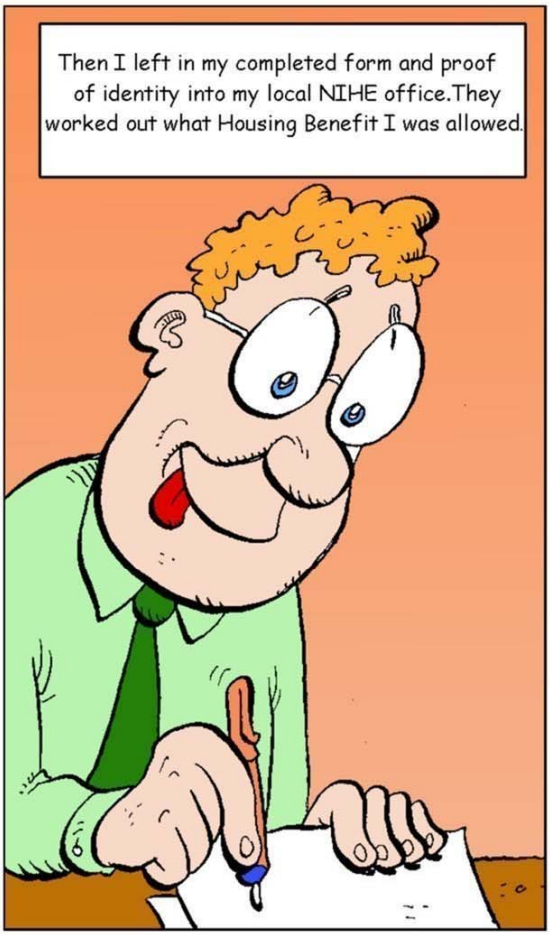
It took a while to get sorted with furniture and get the bills organised, but...
CHARITY SHOP

I eventually got organised and settled into my new flat.


Well, in my case, I took the Housing Officer's advice and called with a number of estate agents, answered ads in the local paper and also asked the Housing Executive what Housing Benefit I might be likely to get...
House to Let
Own Room Sharing
Deposit
Advance Rent
Shared Dwelling
Flat to Let
Eventually I found this flat and made arrangements with the private landlord to sign the contract.


Because I had been working I had a few quid for a deposit and the Housing Executive advised me that I may still get some help with Housing Benefit...


I picked up a form for Housing Benefit from my local Housing Executive office and filled it out.

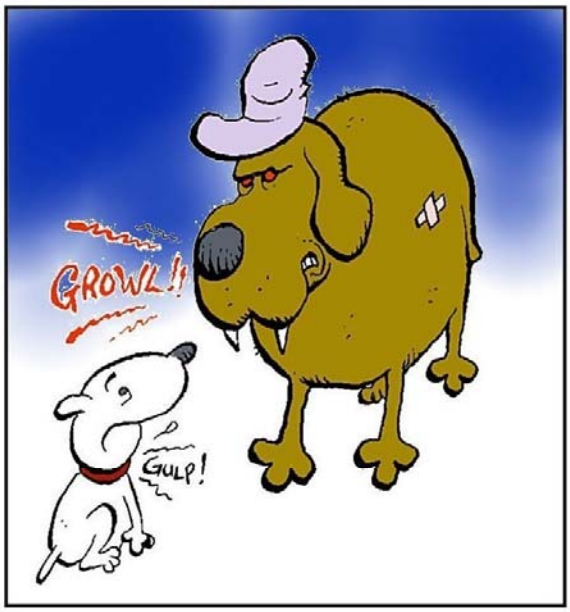

Then I left in my completed form and proof of identity into my local NIHE office.They worked out what Housing Benefit I was allowed.

Then a few days later, I received a letter telling me what I had been awarded!

I wanted to know where the community centre was, so I asked my new neighbours. It was a great icebreaker!

I also received a welcome pack from the local Community Association which gave me a lot of information about the local area.

He was always dumping rubbish around...



Even his dog was scary!

The neighbours reported him and the Housing Executive worked with him to address his behaviour and when that failed they took legal action to put him out!

I have different neighbours now and that makes all the difference.
Our journeys have been difficult in some ways and easier in others.
-but the journey has been worthwhile.
It just goes to show that-
- no matter how you roam...
clink!
-there's no place like home!

If you would like to find out more about getting a house or flat of your own, you should contact your local Housing Executive office.

To find out where your local Housing Executive Office is located you can…

Telephone 03448 920 900 during office hours (9am-5pm)

or

Go online and visit the Office Finder on the Housing Executive website at www.nihe.gov.uk

If you need help or advice filling out application forms please ask any of your local Housing Executive staff.

Further help or advice on Housing issues may also be available through your local Citizens Advice Bureau http://www.citizensadvice.org or through the Housing Rights Service www.housingrights.org (Tel 028-9024-5460)

Advice on money issues can also be obtained through the Citizens Advice Bureau or on their website at http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/aboutus/advice_changing_young_lives.htm

Housing Executive