



## Homeless

### What is homelessness?

- Homelessness means not having a safe, permanent home to live in.
- As well as living on the streets, it could also mean living in a temporary home or on friends' sofas.

Photo: A homeless man on the streets.

## Sesame Street's First Homeless Muppet

Sesame Street is introducing its first homeless Muppet. The show hopes the character will help to teach people about homelessness.

The Muppet is called Lily and joined Sesame Street in 2011. Her family struggled to afford food and her character helped children understand more about poverty.

Now, new stories show that her family is also moving around a lot and living without a permanent home.

Sherrie Westin, who works for Sesame Street, said the programme wanted the story to help homeless children by 'giving them hope for the future'.

Homelessness is a growing problem in the UK. A study in November said that around 320,000 people in Britain are homeless. That's about one person in every 200.

Being homeless doesn't just mean living on the streets. It means anyone who doesn't have a safe, permanent home.

This can also mean living in temporary homes, like hostels where people without homes can sleep for a few nights.

Homelessness can also mean having to stay with friends, sleeping on other people's sofas or needing to move around a lot.

Shelter, a charity for homeless people, says that more people are becoming homeless because of expensive rent and not enough support from the government.

Along with other charities, it can offer support and help to anyone worried about the problem of homelessness.

### Glossary

<b>poverty</b>	The state of being extremely poor.
<b>permanent</b>	Something which lasts, unchanged.
<b>temporary</b>	Only lasting for a short, limited time.
<b>rent</b>	Money paid to a landlord so someone can live in a property, such as a house or flat.