

Dos and Don'ts: Understanding Senior Living Language

There are many misconceptions when it comes to senior living options, and the language used to describe these options makes all the difference. Today's older adults are more independent and are looking for an active, fulfilling lifestyle. Old, outdated terms do not accurately represent modern senior living.

At Oaks Senior Living, we are conscious of the words we use to describe our communities and the care we provide. When individuals, whether it is a family member or an individual looking for him or herself, search for senior living options, they are searching for their desired lifestyle.

We are providing a few terms that you may currently be using as you navigate senior care options versus the terms you should be using to better understand senior living!

DON'T search for X

"nursing home"



The term nursing home is associated with skilled nursing services, where an individual needs 24/7 medical care and assistance. Whereas the term assisted living describes services where an individual is capable of living his or her life independently but may need assistance with some activities of daily living (ADLs), like bathing or getting dressed.



DON'T search for ,

DO search for ✓

"senior living community"



✗ DON'T search for
"assisted living facility"



DO search for ✓
"assisted living community"



Facility gives off the feeling of a cold, impersonalized atmosphere. Community is warm and more inviting. Using the word community represents the types of culture and environments today's senior living strives to create.



DON'T search for X
"patient amenities"



The term patient implies that an individual is solely receiving medical care. The term resident highlights the fact that individuals are members of the community and have access to amenities and benefits beyond the level of care they receive.



DO search for ✓
"resident amenities"



DON'T search for
"resident unit"



DO search for ✓
**"resident or senior
apartment"**



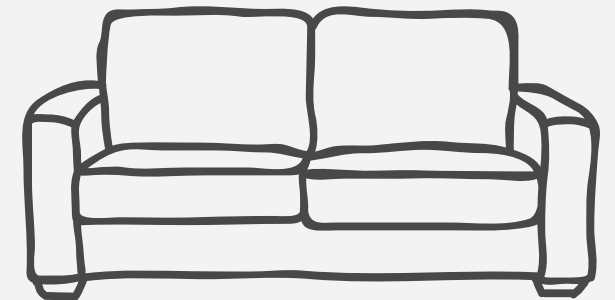
Unit is sterile and sounds like a hospital term, not a place where an individual leads an active lifestyle. Apartment alludes to comfort and personalization, choice and independence. Living quarters are an essential part of senior living. When an individual feels comfortable and at home, he or she is better able to live a healthy, independent life.

Don't search for X
"Alzheimer's unit"



DO search for ✓
"memory care services"

Alzheimer's unit takes away the individuality of a person, inferring that he or she cannot think for themselves. In contrast, memory care celebrates individuality and paints the picture of an environment where individuals live with dignity.



Oaks Senior Living

Throughout all of our communities, we offer a variety of services and amenities that encourage residents to live as independently as possible while receiving the right amount of care. Our person-centered approach provides opportunities for socialization with peers and activities to stay busy and active, promoting an enriched lifestyle!

Visit our website for more information regarding our services and all that our communities have to offer!

