

THE INTERNET AND FRIENDSHIP

Watch the [video](#) “How the Internet Is Changing Friendship” by The Atlantic.

1 WARM UP: FRIEND ACTIVITIES

Task 1: Can you identify the activities commonly done with friends shown below?



1. **Shopping.**



2. **Going to the gym.**



3. **Having a drink / night out.**



4. **Going to the cinema.**



5. **A Spa Day.**



6. **Going fishing.**



7. **A festival / concert.**



8. **Hiking.**



9. **Playing board games.**

Task 2: Discuss the following lead-in questions as a class.

- What do you think of when you hear the word “friendship”.
- Which of the activities from task 1 do you like to do with your friends?
- Are there any activities that your friends like to do that you don't like?
- Name some positive characteristics of your best friend.
- How do you interact with your real-life friends on social media?

2 VIDEO: VOCABULARY

Task 1: Match the words from the box to their definitions.

Active friendship	Dormant friendship	Emotional support
Long-distance friendship	Commemorative friendship	

1. **Dormant Friendship:** Friends who don't talk often but still feel close.
2. **Commemorative:** An old friend you don't expect to see or hear from again.
3. **Long-distance:** A friendship maintained despite living far away from one another.
4. **Emotional Support:** Helping someone feel better when they are sad or stressed.
5. **Active friendship:** Friends who talk and see each other often.

Task 2: Match the words from the box to their synonyms.

spontaneous	lifespan	to hit (someone) up	to fade	to lose touch
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- a. **to lose touch:** to become distant, to drift apart, to lose contact.
- b. **spontaneous:** unplanned, impulsive, unexpected.
- c. **to hit (someone) up:** to contact, to message, to call.
- d. **to fade:** to diminish, to decline, to weaken.
6. **lifespan:** duration, longevity, existence.

Task 3: Write an example related to your friends using the words from tasks 1 and 2.

Take a few minutes to prepare, then share your sentences with the class.



3 VIDEO: QUOTES

Task 1: Complete the quotes from the [video](#) using the words in the box.

emotional support lose touch hit them up commemorative constant

1. We live in a time of **constant** communication. No matter where in the world our friends are, or how long it's been since we've seen them, as long as they stay on social media, we never have to **lose touch**.
2. A friendship is active if you're regularly in touch with that person, if you feel you can call on them for **emotional support**, and if you pretty much know what's going on with their lives.
3. A dormant friend is someone you have history with, but whom you haven't spoken to in a while. But if you were in the same town as them, you'd **hit them up**, and it wouldn't be weird.
4. A **commemorative** friend is someone who was important to you at an earlier time in your life, but you don't really expect to see or hear from them, maybe ever again.

Task 2: Complete the quotes from the [video](#) using the words in the box.

lifespan fade pocket multiplexity theory long-distance

5. As you grow older, more and more of your active friendships will become dormant or commemorative. That's because friendships naturally **fade** as people grow up.
6. Technology offers us a way to extend the **lifespan** of these friendships, even **long-distance** ones, with minimal effort. But some of those friendships aren't really living.
7. The more platforms friends use to communicate, in addition to seeing each other in person, the stronger their relationship. Researchers call this **multiplexity theory**.
8. The effort has to come from you, and liking a status won't be enough, but when you're ready, your friends are there, in your **pocket**, waiting for you to reconnect.

4 VIDEO: COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Watch the [video](#), then choose the correct answer to the questions.

1. According to anthropologist Robin Dunbar, what is the range of the highest number of people one can maintain a meaningful relationship with at one time?
 - a. 50 to 100.
 - b. **100 to 200.**
 - c. 200 to 300.

2. How does friendship researcher William Rawlins categorise friendships?
 - a. Primary, secondary, tertiary.
 - b. Close, distant, casual.
 - c. **Active, dormant, commemorative.**

3. What is a commemorative friend, as described in the video?
 - a. **An old friend you don't expect to see or hear from again.**
 - b. Someone you are regularly in touch with.
 - c. Someone you expect to see or hear from regularly.

4. How does Facebook serve as a platform for commemorative friendships?
 - a. It helps to strengthen active friendships.
 - b. It exclusively focuses on current friendships.
 - c. **It allows you to maintain dormant friendships.**



5. According to the American Time Use Survey, which age group spends the most time socialising per day?
- 10 to 14.
 - 15 to 19.**
 - 20 to 24.
6. What does the media multiplexity theory suggest regarding friendships and communication platforms?
- Using various platforms strengthens relationships.**
 - More platforms weaken relationships.
 - In-person communication is the only effective way.
7. According to friendship researcher Emily Langan, what is the minimum required for friendship maintenance?
- Regular phone calls.
 - Face-to-face meetings.
 - Any form of contact at all.**
8. What did Rawlins find in his interviews with middle-aged Americans regarding friendships over time?
- People consider themselves friends only if they're in regular contact.
 - Dormancy meant the end of the friendship.
 - Many still considered themselves friends despite a lack of recent contact.**



5 VIDEO AND TOPIC: DISCUSSION

Task: Discuss the following [video](#) and topic-based questions as a class.

1. What are the three types of friendships identified by William Rawlins?
2. Describe some of your active friendships. What do you do together? How often do you see each other? What do you have in common? How did the friendships start?
3. Do you have any dormant friendships? Why did they become dormant? Would you like the friendship to become active again?
4. How does Facebook (or other social media platforms) serve as a showcase for commemorative friendships?
5. Describe a commemorative friendship that you have. Where did you meet the person? Why did the friendship become commemorative? Do you ever interact with this person? Do you think the friendship could become active again?
6. How does technology, like social media, help extend the lifespan of friendships?
7. According to Emily Langan, what's the bare minimum to keep a friendship alive using social media?
8. What does media multiplexity theory suggest about using different platforms for communication?
9. Can you share an example of a time when social media made one of your friendships stronger?
10. Can social media lead to misunderstandings in friendships? Share any personal experiences.
11. According to the video, what makes friendships uniquely flexible compared to family or romantic relationships? Do you agree with this?
12. How do you balance staying connected through social media and maintaining genuine, meaningful friendships in real life?
13. Do you and your close friends have shared values? Describe them.
14. Do you and your close friends have shared interests? Describe them.
15. Regarding friendship, is it more important to have shared values or shared interests?
16. In your opinion, to be best friends with someone, do you have to have the same political views?
17. How do life changes such as career changes, having children or moving to a new city impact friendships?
18. Summarise the key points from the video, then say how the internet impacts your friendships.

6 DEBATE

Task 1: Study the statements, then decide if you agree or disagree with them. Use the language in the table at the bottom of the page to help structure your answer.

John

 In my view, having a few close friends is better than a large group of friends; quality matters more than quantity.

Oli

 In my opinion, true friends are like stars; you may not always see them, but you know they're always there.

Beth

 I believe that you should never argue with friends otherwise you will destroy the relationship, learn to avoid controversial topics.

Amy

 Personally, I think you must always buy your friend a gift for their birthday to show your true friendship.

<p style="text-align: center;">Express an opinion</p> <p>It seems to me that...</p> <p>I feel that...</p> <p>I'm absolutely convinced that...</p> <p>In my opinion,...</p> <p>I believe / suppose / feel (that)...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Express disagreement</p> <p>I don't agree with you about...</p> <p>I can't accept your view that...</p> <p>I have a different opinion...</p> <p>I'm not sure if...</p> <p>I'm not convinced that...</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Express pro's and con's</p> <p>There are two sides to this point...</p> <p>On the one hand...,on the other hand...</p> <p>An argument for / against is...</p> <p>Some people think that...,others say that...</p> <p>The advantages / disadvantages are...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Summarise</p> <p>So, in conclusion...</p> <p>To summarise..</p> <p>Overall, it is clear that...</p> <p>As a result..</p> <p>The bottom line is...</p>

7 HOW CAN A FRIEND HELP?

Task 1: How could a friend help or support you in the following aspects of your life?



1. Romantic relationships.



2. Family life.



3. Professional development.



4. Physical health.



5. Creativity and hobbies.



6. Travel and exploration.



7. Fashion and style.



8. Networking.

8 WOULD YOU RATHER?

Let's finish the lesson with a fun speaking game! Begin by deciding which scenario you'd prefer, then provide a detailed explanation, weighing the pros and cons of both options.

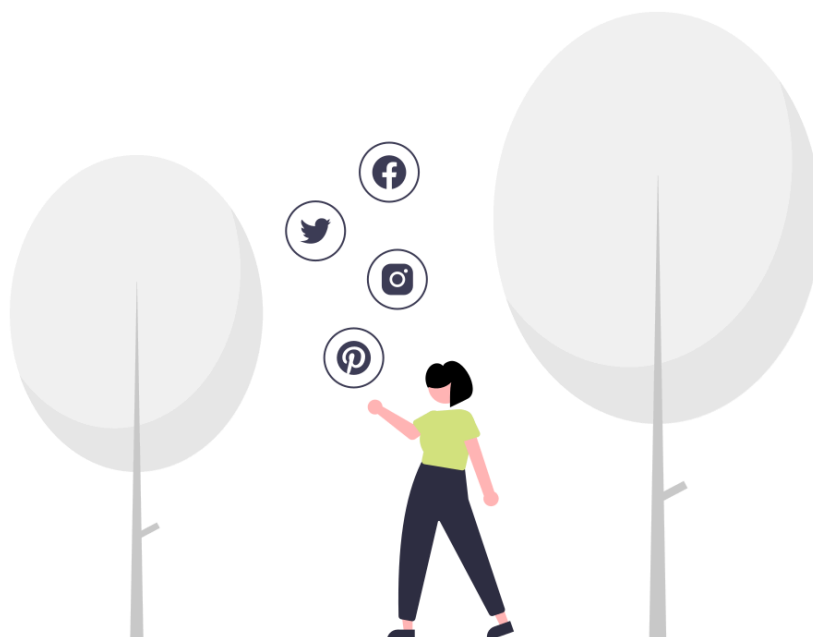
1. Would you rather have a friend who is an amazing chef and always cooks delicious meals for you, or a friend who is a great musician and often invites you to cool live music events?

2. Would you rather have a friend who loves planning and organising everything, or a friend who is spontaneous and always up for an adventure?

3. Would you rather have one best friend for your entire life or many friends who change over time?

4. Would you rather have a friend who always tells the truth but might be brutally honest, or a friend who tells kind lies to spare your feelings?

5. Would you rather go on a road trip with your best friend or have a movie night at home with them?



HOMework

Homework task: Read the text, then complete the writing exercise.

1 FRIENDSHIP AND HAPPINESS

Friendship is very important for our happiness and well-being. When we have good friends, life becomes better and more enjoyable. Friends are like special gifts that bring joy and support to our lives.

One important thing about friendship is that it helps us feel connected. When we have friends, we know that we are not alone. Friends are there to share our joys and sorrows, making life's journey more meaningful. Imagine having a good friend to talk to when you feel sad or happy – it makes everything better!

Another important aspect of friendship is that it teaches us important skills. When we have friends, we learn how to communicate with and understand others. We also learn about kindness, empathy, and how to be a good listener. These skills are valuable not only for our friendships but also for our relationships with family and others.

Friendship also provides a strong support system. When we face challenges, friends are there to help and encourage us. They lift us up when we feel down and celebrate our successes. Having friends who care about us makes us feel secure and loved.

In addition to these benefits, friendship contributes to our personal growth. Friends inspire us to try new things, explore different ideas, and become better individuals. Through shared experiences, we learn more about ourselves and the world around us. Friendship truly enriches our lives in countless ways, fostering joy and personal development.

In conclusion, friendship is like a treasure that adds happiness and meaning to our lives. It connects us, teaches us important skills, and provides support in good times and bad. So, let's cherish our friends and appreciate the wonderful gift of friendship.

Task 2: On a separate piece of paper, write detailed answers to the following questions.

- a. Describe how your friends make you feel more connected.
- b. Give examples of important skills that friends can teach us.
- c. Describe the importance of a strong support system.
- d. How can friendships contribute to personal growth?
- e. Summarise the key things you learned in the text, and in the lesson (150 words).