

Home – Making friends – Handout 2

Making friends

Are you someone who wants to make friends? Yes, well... read on!

There are new people to meet everywhere the person who is next to you in a class or someone who is in front of you in the lunch line. There are many different ways to start a conversation with someone new, but it is always a good idea to smile and make eye contact before you begin. Just say 'hello' and ask questions like, 'Where are you from?'. The weather is always a good topic for conversation. You can say, 'It's a nice day, isn't it?'. It's important to keep the conversation light and it's also a good idea to follow a 30/70 pattern during small talk when possible. This is 30% talking and 70% listening.

The Internet is a great way to get to know people and make friends. It isn't always necessary for friends to have common interests. Some good friends are people who are very different from each other! However, it's easy to spend a lot of time online with someone who you think is a friend and then find there's no chance to meet them because of time and distance.

Sports clubs are great places to keep healthy and make friends at the same time. They are not just for people who are good at playing a sport – they are for everyone. The important thing is to enjoy what you do and have fun. A sports team isn't the only way to a good social life. If you play a musical instrument or sing, there are bands or choirs you can join too.



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I. Choose T (true) and F (false).

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|--|-----|---|
| 1. There are two ways to start a conversation. | T / | F |
| 2. It is a good idea to talk about serious topics when you meet someone new. | T / | F |
| 3. It is more important to listen than to talk. | T / | F |
| 4. Most good friends are very different from each other. | T / | F |
| 5. The Internet is not always a good way to make friends. | T / | F |
| 6. A sports team is the best way to meet new friends. | T / | F |

II. Read the text again and circle TWO answers.

- 1 When you meet someone new it is important to _____
- 2 Good places to get to know new people are _____
- 3 Sports clubs are _____

III. Find the words in the text and choose the correct meaning.

- 1 Small talk (line 12) is ...
 - a. polite conversation about everyday things like the weather.
 - b. conversation about serious topics.
- 2 A common interest (line 16) is ...
 - a. an activity which you share with another person.
 - b. an activity you like to do by yourself.
- 3 If you live at a distance (line 22) from something, you live ...
 - a. far.
 - b. near.
- 4 If you have a good social life (line 28) you are ...
 - a. usually at home by yourself.
 - b. often out with people and having fun.