

## UNIT 1: FRIENDSHIP

Everyone has a number of **acquaintances**, but no one has many friends, for true friendship is not common, and **there are many people** who seem to **be incapable of** it. For a friendship to be close and lasting, both the friends must have some very special qualities.

The first quality is **unselfishness**. A person who is concerned only with his own interests and feelings cannot be a true friend. Friendship is a **two-sided affair**; it lives by give-and-take, and no friendship can last long which is all give on one side and all take on the other.

**Constancy** is the second quality. Some people do not seem to be constant. They take up an interest with **enthusiasm**, but they are soon tired of it and feel the attraction of some new object. Such **changeable** and uncertain people are incapable of a lifelong friendship.

**Loyalty** is the third quality. Two friends must **be loyal to** each other, and they must know each other so well that **there can be no suspicions** between them. We do not think much of people who readily **believe rumours and gossip** about their friends. Those who are easily influenced by rumours can never be good friends.

**Trust** is perhaps the fourth quality. **There must be mutual trust between friends**, so that each can feel safe when telling the other his or her secrets. There are people who cannot keep a secret, either of their own or of others'. Such people will never **keep a friend long**.

Lastly, there must be a perfect **sympathy** between friends - sympathy with each other's aims, likes, joys, sorrows, pursuits and pleasures. Where such **mutual sympathy** does not exist, friendship is **impossible**.