

Friends benefit firms

We have all heard tales about difficult people at work, usually managers, but the office is also where many people make friends, and friends (0) us to feel that bit more enthusiastic about the job we do. Research has found that more than half of British workers (1) their best friends in the office and more than a third say that they go on holiday with (2) workers.

The changing nature of work with more flexibility and more multi-tasking means that people (3) stability from their workmates. Friendships bring (4) in a changing world. A collaborative working environment (5) the way for making job-sharing and expansion of roles more of an (6) for employers and employees.

So fun workplaces where friendships flourish (7) workers who can handle changing job roles. This is not (8) surprising since numerous experiments carried out by workplace psychologists over the years have clearly demonstrated that work is a social affair.



For questions 1–8, read the text again and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). Use the clues to help you (in the exam there are no clues).

0 A enliven B influence C inspire D stimulate

1 A meet B encounter C find D know
Clue: this word means 'to see and speak to someone for the first time'.

2 A peer B colleague C companion D fellow
Clue: this word can be used as an adjective which collocates with 'worker' to describe someone who has the same job as you.

3 A desire B search C seek D wish
Clue: a word which means 'look for' and is not followed by a preposition

4 A basis B support C assistance D backing
Clue: a word which means 'help and encouragement'

5 A leads B finds C shows D paves
Clue: If something ... the way for/to something else, it makes the other thing possible.

6 A option B opportunity C opening D occasion
Clue: a word which means 'one thing which can be chosen from a set of possibilities'

7 A appeal B attract C lure D engage
Clue: these workplaces are pleasant and enjoyable, so people want to work there.

8 A extremely B thoroughly C entirely D utterly
Clue: this word forms part of a phrase which means 'not completely' and collocates with 'surprising'.

