

# HOMework

**Exercise 1:** Read each sentence carefully. The bold phrase is the target vocabulary. Choose the best meaning from the three options.

- Many teenagers tend **to value their friends' opinions** more than their parents' advice, even when making important life decisions.
  - To ignore someone's advice
  - To think someone's ideas are important
  - To ask for help
- People who **lack close contact with relatives** may feel disconnected from their family traditions and childhood memories.
  - Living with family
  - Not talking to family often
  - Visiting family every day
- Her story about overcoming challenges really **resonated with me**, as I have faced similar difficulties in my life.
  - Made me feel bored
  - Made me feel confused
  - Made me feel understood
- No matter what happens, my best friend will **always be on my side**, supporting me through every challenge.
  - Always support someone
  - Never help someone
  - Change opinions often
- As we go through **different stages of life**, our priorities and friendships often change.
  - Different times in life
  - Different ways to think
  - Different places to live
- Friends come and go**, but family is always there for you when you need support.
  - Friends always stay the same
  - Friendships do not always last
  - Friends are never important
- Using social media can help us **expand and keep our friendships**, even if we live far away from each other.
  - To forget old friends
  - To meet strangers
  - To make and keep friends
- Being **geographically mobile** allows people to find better jobs in different cities and countries.
  - Moving to different places
  - Living with family
  - Staying in one place
- Having job **security** means knowing you will have stable work and income for a long time.
  - A safe and steady job
  - A fun but temporary job
  - A short and easy job

10. People with strong friendships often have **fewer mental health problems**, as they feel supported and less lonely.
- A. Are more intelligent
  - B. Feel less sad and worried
  - C. Have fewer responsibilities
11. Exercising regularly can help you achieve **a better physical state of health**, improving your energy and well-being.
- A. To work harder
  - B. To become healthier
  - C. To become busier
12. Not having access to good education can **put someone at a disadvantage** when looking for a job.
- A. Give someone more choices
  - B. Help someone succeed
  - C. Make it harder for someone
13. People with **similar interests and opinions** often find it easier to form long-lasting friendships.
- A. Arguing a lot
  - B. Thinking in opposite ways
  - C. Having things in common
14. It is important to have **someone you can go to** when you are feeling down or need advice.
- A. Someone you can trust
  - B. Someone who ignores you
  - C. Someone who avoids problems
15. Some people **choose friends based on convenience**, meaning they only spend time with people who are easy to meet.
- A. Choosing friends because they are nearby
  - B. Never having close friends
  - C. Making true friendships
16. Spending too much time online can lead to **emotional disconnection**, making people feel distant even from close friends.
- A. Feeling very excited
  - B. Feeling far away from people emotionally
  - C. Feeling safe and happy
17. Comparing yourself to others on social media can lead to **unhealthy comparison** and feelings of insecurity.
- A. A fair way to judge yourself
  - B. A way to feel proud
  - C. A bad way of comparing yourself
18. He struggles with **insecurity**, always worrying about what others think of him.
- A. A feeling of happiness
  - B. A lack of confidence
  - C. A feeling of success
19. Many elderly people experience **isolation**, as they live alone and do not have many visitors.
- A. Feeling excited and happy
  - B. Feeling safe and comfortable
  - C. Feeling lonely and separated
20. Having a strong **social circle** can help people feel happier and more supported in their daily lives.
- A. A hobby
  - B. A type of job
  - C. A group of close friends

**Exercise 2:** Read the information. Then match the words in bold with the phrases that have a similar meaning. Use the phrases in the box.

kept in touch	sensible	introduced him to
quit	lonely and boring	wealthy

Philippe was from a very <b>rich</b> family.	
Then he met Abdel, who had <b>stopped</b> a life of crime in Algeria and moved to France to look for work.	
They believed that Philippe needed someone much more <b>practical and responsible</b>	
Life in a wheelchair was <b>isolating and not interesting</b> .	
Meeting Philippe <b>helped Abdel experience</b> a new way of life.	
Philippe and Abdel now live in different countries, but they <b>stay in contact</b> regularly.	

**Exercise 3:** Read the passage “Untouchable” and answer the questions.

### UNTOUCHABLE

Untouchable, a charming French comedy about two friends who have almost nothing in common, has been a huge international success. But, before their story became a cinematic sensation, how exactly did a rich French aristocrat and an Algerian immigrant with a criminal past become good friends?

Philippe Pozzo di Borgo and Abdel Sellou first met in Paris in 1993 when Philippe was looking for a nurse. Philippe was from a very wealthy family. At one time he had been a successful businessman, living a life of great luxury. Then he had a terrible paragliding accident and lost the use of his arms and legs. Life in a wheelchair was lonely and boring. Philippe was struggling to imagine the future, and he needed practical help with his day-to-day life.

Philippe interviewed more than 80 people for the job of nurse, but none of them seemed right. Then he met Abdel, who had quit a life of crime in Algeria and moved to France to look for work. He was lively, intelligent and quick-thinking, with a crazy sense of humour. Philippe got on with Abdel immediately, and he offered him the job.

The two men didn't have much in common. Abdel loved pop music, but Philippe preferred classical music. Philippe loved modern art, but Abdel hated it. Philippe's family were sure that he had made a bad choice. They believed that Philippe needed someone much more sensible. Meanwhile, Abdel wasn't planning on staying in the job for long.

However, their working relationship quickly developed into a close friendship. Abdel gave Philippe the support he needed. More importantly, his energy and sense of humour brought fun

and excitement back into Philippe's life. Abdel helped Philippe make trips to other countries. Back home in Paris their adventures included traveling around the streets of Paris with Abdel on the back of Philippe's wheelchair or driving Philippe's Rolls-Royce – often much too fast!

In the end, Abdel worked for Philippe for ten years. Philippe believes it was Abdel's energy and sense of fun that kept him alive. 'I suddenly found I was enjoying life again,' he says. 'I felt like I didn't know what was coming next.' As for Abdel, getting to know Philippe had kept him out of prison and introduced him to a new way of life.

Philippe and Abdel now live in different countries, each with a wife and family. They keep in touch regularly. Over the years they have learnt, among other things, to enjoy each other's favourite music. All that really matters to their friendship, though, is their shared love of laughter and adventure.

### Question 1-6

Answer these questions. Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

1. Where did Philippe and Abdel first meet?
2. How many people did Philippe interview before Abdel?
3. What did Philippe's family think he had made?
4. What kind of car did Abdel drive too fast?
5. How long did Abdel work for Philippe?
6. What keeps their friendship strong?

### Question 7

**What is the main idea of the passage?**

- A. The struggles of living with a disability.
- B. The challenges of finding a good job in France.
- C. How two people from different backgrounds formed a strong friendship.
- D. How humor can help people overcome their problems.

**Exercise 4: Complete summaries A and B with words from the corresponding passages below.**

**Use NO MORE THAN ONE WORD for each answer.**

#### 4.1. Passage A

Managers need a range of communication skills to carry out their jobs effectively. They need to be able to articulate their ideas and vision and to convey enthusiasm. Good managers may, at times, need to be able to argue points cogently and to persuade people to their point of view. However, good managers appreciate that communication is a two-way process, and that listening is an important element of communication. Listening to the views of others can help to test ideas as well as to develop new products and methods of production.

The most common forum in which managers are required to communicate is meetings. It is important for managers to plan for meetings, whether with a single person or with a group. Managers should not invite too many participants to keep numbers to a minimum. They should

have a clear agenda for discussion and should exercise tight time controls to prevent meetings dragging on. Managers should enter each meeting with a clear idea of what they want it to achieve. At the end of a meeting, it is good practice to summarize what has been agreed and what needs to happen in the future.

### Summary A

There should be a small number of **1.** \_\_\_\_\_ at meetings and there needs to be a **2.** \_\_\_\_\_ for any meeting, which will include a clear agenda. During the meeting, there needs to be good **3.** \_\_\_\_\_ management and clarity about what the meeting should hopefully **4.** \_\_\_\_\_. At the end, there should be a summary and agreement about **5.** \_\_\_\_\_ action.

### 4.2. Passage B

Communication skills should not be taken for granted. Many managers require training in written and oral communication skills and many businesses would benefit from employing managers who speak at least one other language.

Interpersonal skills are also necessary if a manager is to work successfully with other people. If managers lack interpersonal skills, then they are likely to be of limited effectiveness in their role. Managers with effective interpersonal skills can motivate others and can coordinate the work of their employees. To do this, managers may need to coach and encourage employees as well as solving disputes and, perhaps more importantly, preventing conflict.

### Summary B

Working with other people is not always easy, but it is **6.** \_\_\_\_\_ for the role of managers that they have interpersonal skills that are **7.** \_\_\_\_\_. Their **8.** \_\_\_\_\_ may need encouragement and help with **9.** \_\_\_\_\_ and solving problems between colleagues.

### Exercise 5: Read the passage and answer the questions.

#### Social relationships

**A.** Imagine for a minute what life would be like without social relationships: not swapping news with your family at the end of the day, not gossiping with your friends about the party you went to last night, not chatting with colleagues at the coffee machine, not having any close relationship involving mutual support and caring. Imagining this kind of life is so difficult as to be almost impossible, which neatly illustrates the importance of social relationships in our lives.

**B.** From the earliest age, humans want to belong to their world and to feel a sense of connectedness with it. This need for belonging can be observed as the motivation for infants in their earliest interactions with others. From the moment of birth, babies seek to establish an enduring social relationship with their main carer, extending their circle of relationships outwards as skills and circumstances allow. Later, as their social skills improve, children modify their behaviour to others in order to fit in with other people and gain a sense of belonging.

**C.** Wanting to belong is thought to be a basic need, which makes us set up, keep and – when necessary – repair good social relations with others. It has been suggested that we create social relations for four main reasons: to enable us to compare ourselves with others, thereby reducing uncertainty; to obtain the reward of stimulating company; to be valued; and to gain emotional support.

**D.** Social comparison allows participants to measure their own uncertainty against that of other people and decide, for instance, whether their fear is justified. It can thus be a strategy for reducing anxiety.

**E.** Relationships can also be used for information seeking. Just as young children refer to their parents for information in new or ambiguous situations, adults will also seek out someone with more information when in difficulty. Hospital patients facing an operation the next day generally prefer to spend the night with others who have already had the operation and can provide information about the potential danger, rather than with someone who is about to undergo the same operation.

**F.** In one piece of research, people were asked to specify the conditions under which they would like to be with others. The researcher found that people preferred the company of others in pleasant conditions, such as enjoying a concert, when feeling happy or in the work environment. Company was also preferred in threatening conditions, such as when in danger or feeling afraid. In unpleasant conditions, such as when feeling tense or having just failed a test, people preferred to be alone, as they did in conditions requiring them to concentrate, such as solving a complicated problem or making a decision.

#### **Question 1-5**

**Answer using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage.**

1. What do children change in order to be accepted by others?
2. What does comparing ourselves to others help decrease?
3. Who is the first person babies build a strong connection with?
4. What do people look for in relationships when they are uncertain about something?
5. When do people prefer solitude instead of socializing?

#### **Question 6-9**

**Complete the sentences using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage.**

6. From birth, humans have a natural need to feel a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ with others.
7. Research suggests that people build social connections to compare themselves with others, reduce uncertainty, enjoy engaging interactions, feel appreciated, and receive \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Social comparison helps people check their own worries by seeing how others feel, helping them decide if their fear is \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When people are stressed or experience failure, they prefer to be \_\_\_\_\_ rather than interact with others.