



E-MAIL:

NAME:

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDS

Friends come in all shapes and sizes. They may be someone we met as a child, a classmate at school, someone we met at work or through other friends. They may be friends who live at a distance in another country or virtual friends we've made online. Whoever they are, however we met them, there is a special connection based on a shared history and interests, enjoying doing things together or simply talking and understanding each other. Friends are there to help us at difficult times and to celebrate the good times. Doctors say that friends are very important for both our physical and mental health at all stages in life.

Declaring an international Friendship Day

But friends are not only important on an individual level. Friendship can also be important on a global level. Friendships that cross borders can help bring peace and avoid war. Learning to think of other people, people who are different from us, as our friends helps us work together to build a culture of peace. That's why the UN declared 30 July as its official International Day of Friendship.

An international celebration was first suggested by the World Friendship Crusade. This organisation was founded by Dr Ramón Artemio Bracho and his friends in Puerto Pinasco, Paraguay, in 1958. They wanted to support the power of friendship and its importance in creating a culture of peace. So, in the same year, they decided to celebrate Friendship Week in Puerto Pinasco and other places in Paraguay. The following year, they repeated the week and finished on 30 July, which they declared as Friendship Day. From there, celebrations of friendship grew and spread across the Americas, then the world, and eventually the UN declared an International Day of Friendship in 2011.

Friendship Days around the world

The International Day of Friendship on 30 July is not the only day celebrating friendship around the world. A number of countries, such as Paraguay, also celebrate on 30 July, but other countries have different dates. For example, Argentina, Brazil and Spain celebrate Friend's Day on 20 July, while in India and the US, they celebrate it on the first Sunday in August. In Finland and Estonia, Friendship Day is celebrated on the same day as Valentine's Day, 14 February.

What do people do on the International Day of Friendship?

Wherever it's celebrated, the celebrations are very similar. Friends meet up to spend time together. They may eat out or have a meal at home. They give each other small gifts: books, flowers, simple jewellery such as a friendship band (a simple bracelet). Some people send each other cards and greetings online. Whatever form the celebration takes, the spirit is the same – to remember the importance of friends and the power of friendship.

Now choose T or F for the following statements below:

Friends can be people we met at school, work, online, or during childhood.

According to doctors, friendships are only important for our mental health.

Friendships between people from different countries can help promote peace.

The UN declared 30 July as the official International Day of Friendship in 2011.

The World Friendship Crusade was founded in Argentina in 1958.

Argentina, Brazil and Spain celebrará Friend's Day on 20 July.

In Finland and Estonia, Friendship Day is celebrated on 30 July.

People may celebrate Friendship Day by giving their friends books, flowers or friendship bands.

People only celebrate Friendship Day by meeting their friends in person.

The main purpose of the celebration is to remember the importance and power of friendship.

Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Last year, Sofia decided to celebrate International Day of Friendship with her classmates. She (1) _____ (plan) the celebration for several days before the event. While she (2) _____ (prepare) the decorations, her best friend Lucas called her.

Lucas said that he (3) _____ (invite) several students from different countries. He explained that they (4) _____ (come) to the school to share their traditions and talk about friendship.

On the day of the celebration, everyone was excited. Sofia noticed that some students (5) _____ (already / arrive) when she got there. While they (6) _____ (talk) and eating together, the teacher explained that friendship (7) _____ (be) important because it could help people understand different cultures.

Lucas said that if people (8) _____ (learn) more about other cultures, they would understand each other better. Sofia agreed and said that if she (9) _____ (not / meet) her international friends online, she would never have discovered so many interesting traditions.

At the end of the day, the students exchanged small gifts. Sofia was happy because she (10) _____ (never / experience) such an international celebration before. She said that she (11) _____ (continue) keeping in touch with her new friends.

The following week, the teacher announced that the school (12) _____ (organise) another international event the following year. By then, Sofia hoped that everyone (13) _____ (understand) even more about the importance of friendship.

She also said that if everyone (14) _____ (treat) people from different countries as friends, the world would be a more peaceful place. Finally, she promised that she (15) _____ (participate) in the next Friendship Day celebration.

PARAPHRASING

Rewrite each sentence using the word given. Do not change the meaning.

1. "I have never travelled abroad," Laura said. (BEEN)

Laura said that she _____ abroad before.

2. Ben started studying English four years ago. (FOR)

Ben _____ four years.

3. The plane left before we arrived at the airport. (TIME)

By _____ at the airport, the plane had already left.

4. I didn't study for the exam, so I failed it. (IF)

_____ for the exam, I wouldn't have failed it.

5. The hotel was expensive. It was also very far from the city centre. (BESIDES)

The hotel was very far from the city centre. _____.

6. The restaurant was very expensive, but we decided to eat there. (HOWEVER)

The restaurant was very expensive. _____ there.

7. The woman lives next door. She is my new English teacher. (WHO)

The woman _____ my new English teacher.

8. The film was very boring. We fell asleep. (SO)

The film was _____ fell asleep.

9. It was a very difficult exam. Most students couldn't finish it. (SUCH)

It was _____ most students couldn't finish it.

10. I bought a new laptop. It was very expensive. (WHICH)

I bought a new laptop, _____ very expensive.