

relationship

1 Verb + relationship

Use the correct form of these verbs:

build up	fall apart
have	break off
improve	work

1. I saw Millie and Jake walking hand in hand. They must be some sort of relationship.
2. Fortunately the relationship between the police and the local community has since last month's riots.
3. Let's call it a day! I don't think our relationship is going to We don't agree on anything.
4. Our business has grown and grown because we concentrated on good relationships with all our clients – big and small.
5. When Jane discovered that her new boyfriend was still in touch with his old girlfriend, she the relationship immediately.
6. Liz and Harry have split up. Their relationship after Harry started travelling in his work.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these words:

close	lasting
love-hate	physical
stable	working

1. Many of the staff find our new MD difficult to work with and don't get on with him. However, I seem to have established a good relationship with him right from the start.
2. I have a very relationship with my youngest brother. I had to look after him when he was a boy. We still spend a great deal of time together.
3. I have a relationship with my job! Sometimes I find my work very interesting while at other times I just want to be somewhere else.
4. They've never fallen out with each other in twenty years of marriage. They obviously have a very relationship.
5. They see a lot of each other but their relationship is strictly platonic. They have no kind of relationship as far as I know.
6. Sadly, our affair was brief. It did not develop into a relationship.

3 Positive and negative relationships

Mark the expressions in colour P (positive relationship), or B (bad relationship):

1. I enjoy a fairly harmonious relationship with my children. It's always been friendly and peaceful.
2. I have a rather uneasy relationship with my mother-in-law. I'm not comfortable with her and I find it quite a strain having her to stay with us.
3. I feel sorry for Marie. She's had a string of disastrous relationships since the breakup of her marriage.
4. They appear to have a healthy relationship – they can talk about most things and they remain on good terms even when they disagree.
5. They have a stormy relationship. One minute they are looking lovingly into each other's eyes, the next they are shouting and arguing with each other.

4 Expressions with prepositions

Complete the sentences below with these nouns:

breakdown	details	nature
questions	strain	

1. She's applied for a divorce. Money problems have put a severe on their relationship.
2. He deliberately misled us about the of their relationship. He said they were just good friends, but they've been having an affair for years.
3. The most common cause of depression today is the of a close relationship.
4. The local police chief dodged on his relationship with the local drugs mafia.
5. The Sunday papers were full of pictures of the bishop plus all the sordid of his relationship with the actress.

Notes

1. In 1-3 'last' is also possible.
In 1-4 'establish' is also possible.
2. Note the question:
What's your relationship to Bill? > *He's my nephew.*
3. Note the following relationship:
Trust is a key factor in the doctor-patient relationship.
4. 'In a relationship' means to have a lover:
No, I'm not married, but I'm in a relationship right now.