

READ

Read this article about types of friends.

Friends

I was having trouble **finding** a subject for this week's column until my wife, Amanda, said, "What about friendship? Talk about that. You have lots of friends." I thought about that a while and realized my perspective on friendship has changed considerably. When I was a boy, I had the **naïve** notion that friends were either true or false, but now I recognize the complexity of friendship. There are many types of friends. In fact, I can identify at least five types.

TYPE 1: Convenience Friends

These are the friends we make when our schedules and activities coincide. Years ago, I was starting a new job and didn't have a way of **getting** to work easily. I tried taking the bus, but the commute was ridiculously long. Then I learned that Andrés, a co-worker, lived near me. He had a car, and it was convenient for him to pick me up. We became friends by **riding** with each other and developed a good relationship. We didn't get together outside the work context, though.

TYPE 2: Special-Interest Friends

My brother, whose passion is **kayaking**, belongs to a kayaking club. He's made several good buddies at meetings and on river trips. They have exciting times when they go **kayaking**. Likewise, **living** through dangerous experiences has made them close. Once the trips are over, though, they don't socialize with each other. Their special interest is the only thing that holds them together.

**TYPE 3: Online Friends**

Online friendship is a new phenomenon made possible by technology. **Communicating** with people online has never been easier. Many people today have a rather wide circle of friends that they rarely or never meet in person but whom they regularly talk to or exchange messages with online. But there can be a downside: if someone says something upsetting on social media, for example, it's easy to abandon the relationship just by **unfriend**ing that person. However, if one is willing to commit to **staying** friends, the friendship can be rewarding and fulfilling. We can be online friends with interesting people all over the world that we might never be able to meet in person.

TYPE 4: Part-of-a-Couple Friends

My wife, Amanda, and Gretta, the wife of my buddy Bill, are good examples of this common type of friendship. When our partner has a friend in another couple, we have to go through the often difficult process of **getting** to know the "other person" in that couple. People may feel they have little or nothing in common with their counterpart and may even resent **having** to socialize with a "friend" they don't find compatible. Fortunately, Amanda and Gretta have become good friends on their own through their common interest in **running**.

TYPE 5: "Best" Friends

To me, a best friend is a person with whom we don't have a problem **being** honest or vulnerable. It's someone who will never desert you, who keeps no record of wrongs, who doesn't spare your feelings or avoid **telling** you what you need to hear. I have two best friends. One is Ken, whom I met in the military. Our **having gone** through difficult experiences has bonded us for life. The other is Amanda. We love **having** long conversations that can wander everywhere and nowhere. Sometimes we talk for hours. We both love **being listened to**. Other times, we like **being** together without **saying** much of anything. I would have a hard time **living** without my two "best" friends, but it's important to have the others, too.

AFTER YOU READ

A VOCABULARY Match the words in **bold** with their meanings.

____ 1. When I was a boy, I had a naïve notion about friendship.	a. in the same way
____ 2. These are the friends we make when our schedules and activities coincide .	b. give up
____ 3. We didn't get together outside the soccer context , though.	c. easy to harm
____ 4. Likewise, living through dangerous experiences has made them close.	d. innocent
____ 5. It's easy to abandon the relationship by unfriending the person.	e. like-minded
____ 6. We most often seek friends in our own age group.	f. happen at the same time
____ 7. They may resent having to socialize with a "friend" they don't find compatible .	g. conditions in which something occurs
____ 8. A friend is someone with whom we don't have a problem being vulnerable .	h. try to find

B COMPREHENSION Complete the sentences based on the reading.

1. If you have the same schedule as someone, that person can become a _____ friend.
2. The author's brother met a lot of friends through _____, his special interest.
3. The _____ of social networking websites has made online friendships possible.
4. One downside of an online _____ is that it's perhaps too easy to abandon an online friend.
5. It's not easy to be friends with someone if you have little or nothing _____ with that person.
6. Some people may not feel like _____ with friends of their spouses.
7. If someone is your best friend, you can be _____ with that person.
8. The author and his wife both place great importance on being _____ to.