

READ

Read this article about types of friends.

Friends

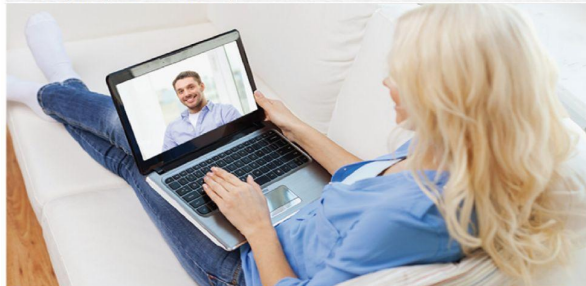
I was having trouble **finding** a subject for this week's column until my wife, Amanda, said, "What about friendship? Talk about that. You have lots of friends." I thought about that a while and realized my perspective on friendship has changed considerably. When I was a boy, I had the naïve notion 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 **unfriending** 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.

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