

## Just Friends 1

Can men and women be just friends?

Can exes be friends?

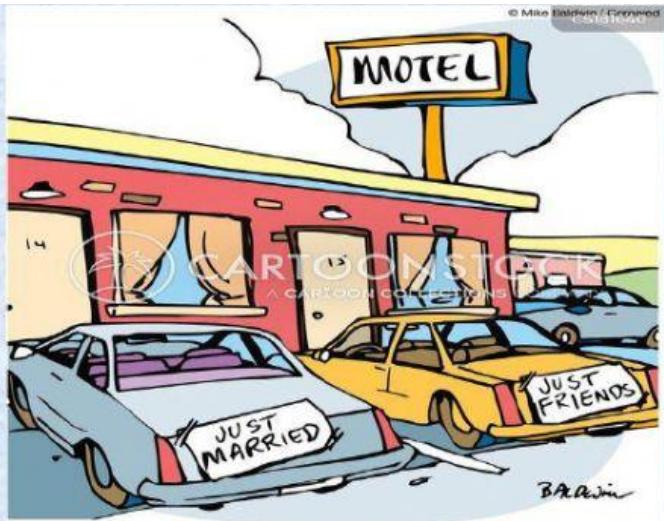
1. Read the summaries, then watch the video and choose the most correct summary précis :

A. The video consists of two parts which are conversations between the same two people but separated by years. They are discussing whether men and women can be friends without any sexual attraction. They also discuss the importance of communication in friendships and how it can help maintain a platonic relationship. They also talk about the importance of setting boundaries in friendships and how it can help prevent any misunderstandings.

B. The video consists of two conversations between the same two people discussing whether men and women can be friends without any sexual attraction. The man argues that it is impossible for men and women to be friends because the sex part always gets in the way. The woman disagrees, stating that she has many male friends with no sexual attraction. They argue back and forth until the man finally arrives at the conclusion that men and women can't be friends even if they are both involved with other people.

C. The video is a conversation between two people discussing whether men and women can be friends without any sexual attraction. The man argues that it is impossible for men and women to be friends because the sex part always gets in the way. The woman disagrees, stating that she has many male friends with no sexual attraction. They argue back and forth until they finally agree that men and women can be friends without any issues.

## When Harry Met Sally



Read the transcript of the second part of the video (1:13-2:22) and find the correct place for the words in the word bank in the middle of the transcript

**Harry:** Staying \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Sally:** Yes.

**Harry:** Would you like to have dinner?

**Harry:** Just friends.

**Sally:** I thought you didn't believe men and women could be friends.

**Harry:** When did I say that?

**Sally:** \_\_\_\_\_ the ride to New York.



**Harry:** No no no no, I never said that.

(Harry pauses, thinks.)

Yes, that's right, they can't be friends. \_\_\_\_\_ both of them are involved \_\_\_\_\_ other people, then they can. This is an amendment \_\_\_\_\_ the earlier rule, if the two people are in relationships, the pressure of possibility \_\_\_\_\_ involvement is lifted.

(Pauses)

to before from (x2) over  
of (x2) with either on unless

That doesn't work \_\_\_\_\_ because what happens then is the person you're involved with can't understand why you need to be friends with the person you're just friends with. Like it means something is missing \_\_\_\_\_ their relationship and "why do you have to go outside to get it?".

Then when you say, "no no no no, it's not true nothing's missing \_\_\_\_\_ the relationship", the person you're involved with then accuses you \_\_\_\_\_ being secretly attracted to the person you're just friends with, which we probably are, I mean, come on, who the hell are we kidding, let's face it, which brings us back to the earlier rule \_\_\_\_\_ the amendment which is men and women can't be friends, so where does that leave us?

**Sally:** Harry.

**Harry:** What?

**Sally:** Goodbye.

**Harry:** Oh, OK.

## Listen and check

The next part of this LWS is tailored around Act 1 of the episode *GET OVER IT* from *This American Life* podcast. At the very beginning the term "screwball comedy" is going to be mentioned. Are you familiar with the term? If you aren't, look at the pictures below. What is going on there? Do you get the idea of the genre now?



2. Read the text. Did you get the idea of the genre right? Can you give any examples of such movies?

Screwball comedies are a genre of comedy \_\_\_\_ (1) became popular in the 1930s and 1940s. They are characterized by their fast-paced, witty dialogue, farcical situations, and romantic storylines that often involve a battle of the sexes. Tropes of the genre often \_\_\_\_ (2) feature elements of slapstick humor.



Screwball comedies are important to Hollywood history for several reasons. \_\_\_\_ (3) Screwball comedies represented a new approach to comedy in film and television, with a focus on fast-paced, witty dialogue and unconventional characters. They helped to establish screwball comedy as a genre and paved the way for other types of comedy in film and television.



Another reason these movies are so important is social commentary. Screwball comedies often reflected the social and political issues of their time.

They also provided escapism for many audiences. During the Great Depression and World War II, screwball comedies offered audiences an escape from the hardships of everyday life, \_\_\_\_ (4)

Finally, these movies have a rich legacy \_\_\_\_ (5).

Overall, screwball comedies are an important part of Hollywood history and have helped to shape the evolution of comedy in film and television.

**Find the correct place for each phrase:**

- A) providing a much-needed source of lighthearted entertainment and humor
- B) that emerged in the 1930s and
- C) the first is innovation
- D) that continues to influence Hollywood today
- E) feature an unlikely hero or heroine who must outwit the opposition and often

**Listen and check** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Listen to the first clip \_\_\_\_\_.

screwball comedies  
 TV  
 theatre  
 situation

movie  
 situation comedies  
 comedies  
 drama



*You know you are in trouble when the word "just" appears in front of the word "friend."*  
Do you agree with the quote? What does it mean?

4. A Listen to the snippet and do the T/F activity \_\_\_\_\_

1. Danielle and Ira had broken up half a year ago. \_\_\_\_
2. Danielle lived in Chicago. \_\_\_\_



3. Ira lived in New York. \_\_\_\_\_
4. They talked on the phone once a week. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Danielle had started dating someone new. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Ira was visiting New York City to see Danielle. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ira was visiting New York City to see normal friends. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Danielle didn't like the guy she was dating. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Ira was indifferent to the news about Danielle's new boyfriend. \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Now read out the script and try to find the correct place for each verb. Remember the correct tense forms

come      break      depend      find      keep      start      focus

All right, I'm going to try to \_\_\_\_\_ the mundane personal information to a minimum here so we can \_\_\_\_\_ on the bigger, universal truths this story may offer. Briefly, some facts, though. OK, Danielle and I had been \_\_\_\_\_ up for half a year. And she lived in New York City. I lived in Chicago. And we talked on the phone several times a week.



In other words, that kind of weird, post-relationship situation where there's no more sex, but you still sort of \_\_\_\_\_ on each other for all your emotional needs. So all the work of the relationship, but none of the sheer physical pleasure. That was our thing.

Anyway, so two days before I \_\_\_\_\_ to New York City to visit friends there – real friends, not just friends, just normal friends – and Danielle, she informs me that there's a guy that she had \_\_\_\_\_ dating. "I like him," she said. "I really like him." And then two days later, I \_\_\_\_\_ myself in New York City.

**Listen again and check** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Listen to the snippet and complete the pieces** \_\_\_\_\_

we're trying to \_\_\_\_\_ and be buddies

we \_\_\_\_\_ in Saks Fifth Avenue

the first moment of our \_\_\_\_\_ comedy weekend





that big, \_\_\_\_\_ Fifth Avenue store

it wasn't too \_\_\_\_\_, and it wasn't too \_\_\_\_\_

she was walking \_\_\_\_\_ of me, just a step or two  
\_\_\_\_\_ of me

she wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ meeting my eye

she wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ talking to me

she was holding a certain \_\_\_\_\_

you won't meet my eyes \_\_\_\_\_



Listen again and report back everything Ira Glass tells about the store \_\_\_\_\_

6. Listen to the clip once \_\_\_\_\_. Have you ever been in a similar situation?

Listen again and explain in your own words the phrases and expressions in bold.

And in each of our histories of love, who has not played both parts in this drama? Both parts, who hasn't been both people in this picture at one time or another? The person **walking a little briskly** ahead, not meeting the eye of the other person, and the person walking behind, **a little over-eager, a little extra edge of anxiousness**, wanting to make the connection, a little bit like an eager puppy. The other person ahead, a little bit put off by **the yapping of this puppy**. No matter how **subtle and dignified** and interesting that yapping happens to be, just kind of not wanting to deal with this, not wanting to face this situation, walking ahead about three paces. Who among us has not been on both sides of that?



7. Listen to the clip and do this T/F activity \_\_\_\_\_

1. Ira and Danielle are looking for the bathroom. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Then they stand outside the dressing room. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Danielle doesn't want Ira to go into the dressing room. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ira insists on coming in, as "what is in there that he hasn't seen before?" \_\_\_\_\_
5. There's something inherently awkward about coming in because things have changed. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Ira doesn't go in. \_\_\_\_\_