

1 Friendship

AIMS: Vocabulary related to leisure time • Working with key words • Answering multiple-choice questions

Part 1: Vocabulary



1



2



3



4

1a What do we need friends for? Match the words to the pictures. The first one has been done for you.

sharing

chatting

having fun

partying

1 ... partying...

3 ...

2 ...

4 ...

1b Words ending in *-ing* are often at the beginning and at the end of sentences.

Put the four words from exercise 1a in the correct sentences.

1 It is difficult for young children, but they have to learn that friendship is about

2 with friends is not something I do very often, but we always celebrate our birthdays.

3 with friends is one of my favourite ways to spend an afternoon. We have so much to say that we often talk for hours.

4 Even on bad days, being with my best friend means

Watch Out!

Although some verbs have very similar meanings, they are not always interchangeable; it depends on the context. For example, we *spend time* with friends, or more formally, we *socialize* with them; more informally; we *hang out* with them. If we participate in a specific activity, such as a game or a sport, *play* is correct e.g. *playing chess*.

2 Which nouns go with which verbs? Copy and complete the table. Then answer the questions below.

chess basketball board games sports swimming tennis cards dancing
weightlifting skiing yoga shopping exercise karate poker puzzles kick boxing hiking

Play	Go	Do
chess		

- 1 Which verb do you use most with activities ending in -ing?
- 2 Which verb do you use most for competitive games?
- 3 Which verb do you use most for other recreational activities?

3a Read about how these people have fun. Underline all the words that refer to activities, and circle the words that refer to places. Don't use a dictionary yet.

Jack, 15:

I spend time with my family most evenings. At the weekend, I prefer to hang out with my friends at the park or in the playground in the local woods. If it rains, I like to go to see a film with my friends.

Monica, 18:

I belong to a chess club which meets twice a month, and once a year we go camping. It's the highlight of my summer! We stay in tents on a lovely camp site and have picnics and barbecues. In the evenings, we organize quizzes and play cards. And we also play a lot of chess, of course!

Amrita, 12:

My older sisters spend a lot of time with their friends in the local shopping centre, but I'm not allowed to go out without an adult yet. I can still chat to my friends all the time though, by phone, email or text message.

3b Find words in the texts above that match with these meanings.

- 1: a large place where you can buy many different things
- 2: a person who is no longer a child
- 3: a place where you can stay in a caravan or a tent
- 4: a meal in the open air
- 5: outdoor parties where people cook and eat food
- 6: games in which you have to answer questions

Exam information | Multiple-choice questions

In the exam, there are different types of multiple-choice questions: you may be asked to choose the correct answer to a question, or you may be given a choice of sentence endings and asked to form a sentence that reflects the meaning of the text. The questions will be in the same order as the information in the text.

1 Read the following text and then look at the questions on the next page.

The value of friendship

Recent research into the world of teenagers has suggested that they value friendship above everything else. Children aged between 12 and 15 were asked what was important to them. Their answers included possessions such as money and computer gadgets but also relationships with people. The teenagers questioned said that friends were the most important to them, more even than family, or boyfriends and girlfriends.

We wanted to find out more about the results of this research so we asked our readers what they thought about the value of friendship. Here are some examples of what they said about their friends:



Ben, 15:

Every time I have a fight with my parents, I need some time on my own. But after that, the first thing I do is meet up with my friends. After playing football for a while, or skateboarding, I usually feel much happier again.



Rory, 13:

When I moved to a village in the countryside, I thought that it would be the end of my friendships. But my old friends have kept in touch and they come and visit in the holidays. There's a lake nearby, so we often go sailing, water-skiing or windsurfing. And I have made some new friends here too, at school, and since I joined the rugby club.



Carlos, 11:

Last year, I broke my arm on a skiing holiday. Unfortunately, it was my left arm and I am left-handed. My school friends all helped and copied their notes for me.

It seems that our readers value their friendships very highly. From what they told us, they spend a lot of time with their friends, just hanging out, or sharing hobbies and interests. They seem to need their friends for advice, help, chats, and for having fun. Clearly, friends make each other feel better. Looking at what our readers told us, the results of the recent research are not really surprising.

2 Try to answer this question yourself first, before reading the explanation. Choose the best answer from the letters a-d.

To teenagers, money is ...

a not important. **c** as important as relationships with people.
b as important as computer gadgets. **d** less important than friendships.

The correct answer is d. The teenagers said that money, gadgets and relationships are all important to them. However, the text also tells us that the teenagers value friendships most, therefore money is less important.

Exam tip

Deciding which are the key, or most important, words in a question can help you to locate the appropriate section of the text more quickly.

3 Look at the questions in Exercise 4, without reading the answer options. Underline the question words (e.g. *where, when, what*) and the key words in each of the questions (1-3) and sentence stems (4-5).

4 Now answer these multiple-choice questions. Choose the appropriate letter a, b, c or d.

i Why are Ben, Rory and Carlos mentioned in the article?

a They know why teenagers value friendship. **c** They read magazines.
b They gave information about themselves. **d** They are teenage boys.

ii Which of the following best describes Ben?

a He often has fights. **c** He is happier than his friends.
b He likes being alone. **d** He likes some sports.

iii What do we know about the lake that Rory visits?

a It is near the school. **c** It is used by a lot of people who do water sports.
b It is near his home. **d** It is in a village.

iv Carlos mentions that he is left-handed because ...

a it makes skiing harder. **c** it is an interesting fact about himself and he was talking about his left arm.
b it makes it worse that he broke the arm he uses most. **d** it is very unfortunate when you break your left arm.

v The answers to the recent research and the answers from the readers ...

a were surprising. **c** were similar.
b were the same. **d** were both about sports.

Exam tip

If a question is difficult, don't spend too much time on it – go to the next one. Once you find the next answer, you can go back in the text to find the answer to the previous question. This is because, in this type of task, the questions are in the same order as the information in the text.

Questions 1–6

Choose the appropriate letters **a**, **b**, **c** or **d**.

- i *How many friends do the majority of people probably have?*
 - a** 30 real friends or fewer
 - b** a minimum of 30 real friends
 - c** 150 internet friends
 - d** 400 internet friends over the course of their lives
- ii *It is difficult ...*
 - a** to believe the numbers about friendship.
 - b** to keep your friends happy.
 - c** to trust what you read on social networking sites.
 - d** to give a definition of 'friendship'.
- iii *Friendship means ...*
 - a** different things to different people.
 - b** dying for your friends if you need to.
 - c** helping each other until it is no longer necessary.
 - d** accepting people with different views.
- iv *Sometimes people worry because ...*
 - a** they think that they have too many friends.
 - b** they spend too much time with friends.
 - c** they think they are too old to make friends.
 - d** there are no guidelines about friendship.
- v *Most of us ...*
 - a** are dissatisfied with our friends.
 - b** build friendships late in life.
 - c** are frightened to talk to strangers.
 - d** need to be with others.
- vi *What does 'Strangers are friends we have not met yet' mean?*
 - a** We have not met strangers before.
 - b** Strangers are also our friends.
 - c** We should not talk to strangers.
 - d** Strangers may become our friends.

It is said that most people have no more than 30 friends at any given time, and 400 over the whole of their lives. However, on social networking sites, most users have about 150 friends. If these numbers are correct, then friendship means different things in different situations.

One of the reasons for having more online friends than real friends at a certain point in time is that online friendships do not require much time and energy: it is easy to accept friendships and keep them forever. Another possibility is that it is difficult to say 'no' when somebody asks us to be their friend online, even if we feel we don't really know them. The fact that they ask us suggests that they do consider us a friend, which is a nice feeling. Alternatively, they may be 'collectors' of online friends and just want to use us to get a higher number of friends and appear to be popular.

Online friendships are quite easy, but in the real world decisions about friendships are harder to make. There are no rules about friendship. There are no guidelines about how to make friends, how to keep friendships going, and how to finish friendships if we want to move on. People have very different opinions about this: some people would die for their friends and they value them more than family. Others say that friends are temporary, only there to help each other until they are no longer needed. If people with such different views become friends, this can lead to problems.

Because of these different definitions of friendship, it is easy to be unhappy about our friendships. We may want them to be deeper or closer, or we may want to have more friends in our lives. Sometimes we simply do not have the time to develop our friendships, or we fear we have left it too late in life to start. If we move to another country or city, we have to find ways to make new friends again.

This dissatisfaction shows us how important friendships are for most of us. We should not think that it could be too late to build friendships. We also need to understand that the need to be around other people is one that is shared by many. Therefore, we should not be too frightened about starting to talk to people who in the future may become our friends: it is likely that they too would like to get closer to us. Remember what people say: strangers are friends we have not met yet.

Progress check

How many boxes can you tick? You should work towards being able to tick them all.

Did you ...

remember to underline the key words in the questions and look for them in the text?

read only the parts of the text that you needed to?

remember that the questions are in the same order as the information in the text?

first skip a difficult question and then go back to it after you found the answer to the next one?

base your answers on the text, not on your own opinion?