

1 He's my best friend

Use the following words to complete the sentences below:

lifelong	mine	old-
acquaintance	close	best

1. I hear you work with Peter. Did you know he was a friend of ?
2. I suppose Sandra is my friend. We ring each other most evenings.
3. I'm going up to see some friends in Scotland next week. I haven't seen them for over 30 years!
4. I wouldn't say he was a friend. We used to work together and we go for a drink now and again.
5. I met Martin at university. It was the start of a friendship.
6. I wouldn't really call Sam a friend. He's just an I know him through Kirsty and Paul.

In informal British English young men often call their friends mates. You can say somebody is your best mate. In the United States men sometimes call their male friends buddies.

2 Other words for *friend*

Match the words on the left with the ideas on the right:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. workmate | a. We study together. |
| 2. partner | b. We work for the same firm. |
| 3. classmate | c. We write every month. |
| 4. pen-friend | d. We share a flat. |
| 5. flatmate | e. We live together, but aren't married. |

4 Why people are friends

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences below:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. I didn't like Jenny at first but now we get on | a. similar backgrounds. |
| 2. We live in different towns now but we still try to see | b. in common. |
| 3. Mark and I get on very well. We've got so much | c. in touch. |
| 4. Lucy's my best friend. I know I can always rely on | d. each other's company. |
| 5. Even if we move to different countries, we'd always stay | e. a long way. |
| 6. Mike and I do everything together. We really enjoy | f. very well. |
| 7. I think we're friends because we come from | g. her. |
| 8. I've known Susan since we were at school. We go back | h. each other whenever we can. |

Use the words friends and family to complete this famous saying:

You can choose your , but not your !

Is there a similar saying in your language? Have you got a best friend?

5 Problems in a friendship

Complete the following letters to a magazine problem page with these words and phrases:

lose	go our separate ways
fell out	drifted apart
isn't speaking	row

Dear Sally,

I've been really good friends with Emma since we started in the same class two years ago but recently we (1) over a boy that we both like. I knew Emma liked him but when Steve asked me out I accepted. Emma was really angry and we had a terrible (2) Now she (3) to me. I like Steve but I don't want to (4) my best friend. What should I do?

Dear Sally,

All the time we were at school Lucy and I were really close friends. We really enjoyed each other's company and did everything together. But since she went to university we seem to have (5) She's made lots of new friends and doesn't have time for me. Do you think there is anything I can do to keep her as a friend or should I just accept it's time to (6) ?