

Look at the picture.

1. Where do you think they are?
2. What do you think the girl on the left is saying? Why do you think that?
3. How do you think the boy feels? Why?

Think about...

1. Do/Did you talk a lot in class in school or at university?
2. Do you talk a lot when you are with your friends? What about with your family?
3. Do you think you should change anything about the way you talk (e.g., talk more, less, more loudly, more quietly)? Why?

Discussion

1. How do you usually meet new people? Face-to-face or online? Why?
2. Are your online friendships different from your other friendships? How?
3. What kind of things do you talk about online? Is this different from most of your face-to-face conversations? Why/why not?

Match the words in bold with the definitions.

Social media is a great way to **get in touch** with old friends you haven't seen in a while.		A	to communicate with and react to a person or people
It's really difficult to **express your feelings** online because you can't look people in the eye.		B	to say or write what you think or believe about something

When her brother, Mike, was in hospital, Susanna **reached out** to all his friends to come and visit him.		C	to contact someone by phone, email or text message
It's easier to **interact** with people online because you can think about what you want to say before you write it.		D	to try to communicate with a person or group of people, usually to help or involve them
With good friends, you often don't have to **put** how you feel **into words**, because you just understand each other.		E	to talk about your emotions
It's not a good idea to **give your opinion** in an online discussion because it's written. If you change your mind, you can't get rid of what you wrote.		F	to explain a feeling using language

Do you agree with the sentences above? Why or why not?

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

1. I prefer having _____ meetings rather than emailing colleagues or chatting with them online.
2. Marek prefers emailing his colleagues because he can take the time to put his thoughts _____ .
3. He got _____ with an old colleague to ask her for some professional advice.
4. Although I left the country 15 years ago, I still _____ to old friends if we haven't talked for a while.
5. She works hard and knows how to _____ difficult people, so they made her manager of the restaurant.
6. He's not very good at _____ his feelings. He's quite shy, so I never know if he's happy or not.
7. David's a very direct person. He always gives his _____ about my paintings.

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Read the article and find out if it has similar ideas.

BUT ARE THEY REAL FRIENDS?



You've probably heard it before, haven't you? 'Facebook and Instagram friends aren't the same as the real thing.' People from generations that didn't grow up with online friendships criticise younger adults who say they have a lot of online friends. They don't think friendships that are made online are as real or as meaningful as face-to-face ones. But it looks like they may be wrong.

Researchers at the University of California have recently come to the conclusion that online friendships have the same qualities as those in the real world. In a study, the researchers looked at exchanges between online friends and observed the same kinds of behaviours that exist in face-to-face friendships. Online friends often share experiences and interests, express their feelings and reveal things about themselves. Sometimes they gladly offer each other practical help, and they can keep each other company at any time of the day or night.

Another way that face-to-face and online friendships are similar is that they take time to develop. You can't just go online hoping to find a friend – it's not as simple as that. Experts say that you need to build online friendships carefully, and they offer the following advice:

- **Join a discussion or community that talks about something you're interested in.**
- **Make sure it's an app or website where you can exchange ideas and information – not one where you just follow what other people say.**
- **Write a clear and honest profile of yourself. Make it interesting and use a friendly tone.**
- **Don't expect to find a friend immediately – it can take time.**

Here's a checklist of questions you can ask yourself as you explore the world of online friendships:

1. Is it easy to use the app/website?
2. Is this a community I want to join?
3. Are there people I want to communicate with?
4. Am I interested in replying to posts?
5. Are the posts friendly and honest?
6. Do other people like or reply to my posts?

AND WHEN YOU DO FIND A FRIEND ...

- **Take things one step at a time, but make sure you stay in touch.**
- **Share things about your life, but not very personal things, and try to build trust.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Are these sentences True or False? Correct the false sentences.

1. Some older people don't think online friends are true friends.

   _____

2. Researchers say there are many differences between face-to-face and online friendships.

   _____

3. Online friends can be available to interact with day and night.

   _____

4. You will find online friends very quickly.

   _____

5. To help an online friendship develop, share some details about yourself and your life.

   _____



Discussion

1. Do you think the advice in the article is good? Why / Why not?
2. What problems can happen as a result of online friendships? What are the benefits?
3. Do you think people express their feelings more or less carefully online? Why?
4. Do you think it's easier to find someone you have something in common with in the real world or online? Why?

Choose the correct answer.

1. What belief do some older people hold about online friends?

   a. They are better than face-to-face friends
   b. They are worse than face-to-face friends
   c. They are always dangerous
   d. They aren't the same as "real" friends

2. What did University of California researchers conclude?

   a. Online friendships are mostly dangerous and deceiving.
   b. Online friends hardly share experiences and interests.
   c. Online friendships are faster to build.
   d. Online friendships show no difference from face-to-face ones.

3. Which behaviour was observed in online friendships?

   a. Avoiding personal topics
   b. Never sharing interests
   c. Expressing feelings and revealing things about themselves
   d. Refusing to give practical help

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. What is said about how friendships (online or offline) develop?

a. It doesn't happen instantly.
b. It doesn't take time to develop.
c. It requires daily video calls.
d. It needs professional guidance.

5. What's the first piece of expert advice for building online friendships?

a. Send friend requests to everyone
b. Join a discussion/community about something you're interested in
c. Avoid groups and stay private
d. Use anonymous accounts

6. Which app/website quality is recommended?

a. One where you can only "like" posts
b. One that discourages comments
c. One where you can exchange ideas and information
d. One with no rules or moderation

7. What expectation should you avoid?

a. Finding a friend immediately
b. Meeting people with similar interests
c. Writing a profile
d. Joining a community

8. After finding a friend, what should you do first?

a. Share very personal information
b. Stop messaging to seem cool
c. Take things one step at a time and stay in touch
d. Ask for favors quickly

9. What does the article suggest about sharing personal info?

a. Share everything to build trust fast
b. Share nothing at all
c. Only share memes
d. Share about your life, but not very personal things

10. Which of the following can be added to the checklist?

a. Is my profile viral?
b. Can I be famous?
c. How many followers do I have?
d. Can I block comments?

Underline the correct adverbs to complete the sentence.

Adverb usually describe or modify verbs.

1. People hardly / probably / often say that online friends aren't real friends.
2. Older generations barely / generally / partly believe that online friendships aren't meaningful.
3. Online friends constantly / hardly / frequently share their thoughts and feelings.
4. Good online friendships develop gradually / rapidly / randomly over time.
5. If you stay connected occasionally / partly / regularly, trust will grow naturally / slightly / easily.

Put the words in brackets in the correct place in each sentence.

1. They see their grandchildren now that they live in Australia. (hardly ever)

_____

2. I enjoy watching old Hollywood movies. (particularly)

_____

3. She hates it when people are late for meetings. (absolutely)

_____

4. We go to Italian restaurants, but sometimes we also go to French ones. (generally)

_____

5. We're sure his flight arrives at Terminal 2, but I need to check it. (pretty)

_____

Underline the correct words to complete the sentences.

1. I complained / argued / persuaded to the waiter that my food wasn't hot enough.
2. I said I would take a taxi to the airport, but they complained / insisted / updated on driving me.
3. We were argued / encouraged / greeted at the airport by the Minister of Tourism.
4. She argued / forgave / refused to lend him the £500 he needed to buy a new TV.
5. My father updated / encouraged / expressed me to apply for the job, although I had very little experience in that area.
6. My husband and I always argue / complain / insist about where to go on holiday. I prefer the beach, while he prefers the mountains.
7. The babysitter forgave / complained / persuaded the children to go to bed at 9 o'clock.
8. The student admitted / encouraged / persuaded to his teacher that he had never tried to read a book in English.