Reading

Read a selection of posts which give advice to foreign students on how to make friends in the UK. Match the questions (**1–6**) with the people (**A–D**). You may choose each person more than once.



A When I first arrived in the UK, I wanted to meet lots of native speakers, so I put an advert in a newspaper stating that I was looking for friends. I remember the advert went out on the Thursday and that day I received roughly 80 phone calls and about 130 text messages. Everything was a little out of control and not as I had envisaged. There was no way I could befriend that many people. Also, some of the people that contacted me were clearly not native speakers and I found it difficult to understand them. I decided to dump that idea and the following week I joined a language exchange group. In the beginning, I wasn't keen on the idea, but a friend of mine spoke highly of it. I thought that the people would be really boring and shy, but they aren't at all. They are really interesting and outgoing. We meet once a week for a couple of hours. There are roughly 30 people in the group – half of them are native speakers and the rest from different countries around the world, so there are plenty of people to make friends with! – **Ana**

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B I work in a small coffee shop in the centre of my town seven days a week, which means not only do I get to practise my English with countless native speakers, but I also have the chance to make friends. I have made several friends who are actually customers.



The first person that I met, Tony, is a regular customer and after a couple of weeks of constantly discussing football players and teams, he invited me to watch him play. Since then, I've joined his football club and we typically meet twice a week. Len is another friend I've made. We share a love of films and we go to the cinema as much as we can. So my advice to you is to prepare your CV and start job hunting. There are plenty of websites and agencies that you can sign up to. A job in a coffee shop or a restaurant is ideal for meeting people, as part of your job is talking to and entertaining customers or, as I think of them, potential friends. Good luck! – **Dieter**

C If you had asked me three months ago what the key was to making friends in the UK, I would have told you I didn't know. But now, I definitely know the answer. I've been living in shared

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accommodation for one month now and it has had an extremely positive effect on my life. Before this I didn't go out in the evenings, I ate on my own and I stayed in every weekend. Now, it seems my life is completely the opposite. I live in a house with three other people ranging from 21 to 35 years old. Each of my flatmates works in a different field and has different hobbies, and that's what makes things so interesting. One of them is a chef and he cooks for us all once a week. The food he cooks is delicious. It's very different from the food in my country. Another flatmate is a hairdresser and she has already cut my hair twice! – **Hassan**

D I must admit I had a pretty clear idea of how I was going to find friends in the UK. In fact, I started before I came. I used an Internet site called FriendfinderUK. It's simple to use and you can use filters to look for people by area, age, interest and gender. I was looking for people who were into films and writing. I made one friend, Geoff, before I arrived in Manchester and he not only met me at the airport but gave me a tour of the city. Since then I've made a number of acquaintances using the site

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but Geoff is the only one I would say is a friend. He introduced me to his writing group and we meet every Wednesday and practise our writing skills and then afterwards we just chat in English. I know some people who think working in an English environment is the best way to improve fluency, but I think to make friends you can't beat a well-organised website. – **Luis**



I. Which person ...

1 likes the method they chose because they didn't use to be very social? .....

2 changed their approach to finding friends after an unsuccessful experience? .....

3 has daily contact with numerous native speakers? .....

4 thinks working in an English environment is not the ideal way to make friends? .....

5 began searching for British friends in their own country? .....

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6 found that some people were pleasantly different in reality from their expectations? ……..

II. Read the posts again and choose the best answers, **A, B, C** or **D.**

1 What happened when Ana placed an advert in a newspaper?

A She was surprised by the response.

B She stopped it after a month.

C The people who replied were not native speakers.

D She could not understand why some people had called her.

2 What does Ana say about the language Exchange group?

A She hopes that she will make a lot of friends.

B She liked the idea when she heard about it.

C Some of the people there are boring.

D She met her best friend there.

3 According to the text, Dieter ...

A likes playing football.

B watches films with the first friend he made.

C recommends working in a clothes shop.

D sees his customers as possible future friends.

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4 What does Hassan say about flat sharing?

A He now goes out every Saturday night.

B He would like to cook for his flatmates.

C Every week the flatmates eat together.

D He stays in every evening.

5 What are the advantages of using the FriendfinderUK website, according to Luis?

A There are lots of people on the site to meet.

B You can meet people using specific criteria.

C You can meet people in Manchester.

D The people on the site are very friendly.

6 What does Luis say about Geoff?

A He thinks working in an English environment is a good idea.

B He is the only Internet contact that Luis would call a friend.

C He works as a tourist guide.

D He introduced Luis to lots of friends.

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III. Find words or expressions in the posts which

mean the following:

1 to get rid or reject (Text A) .....

2 a great number of (Text B) .....

3 an area of activity or interest, related to a business or profession (Text C) .....

4 there is nothing better than (Text D) .....

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