

LISTENING

1 **BEFORE YOU LISTEN** Compare yourself to your best friend. Who is...?

- more outgoing
- nerdier
- more reserved
- more adventurous

2 Listen to people talking about how they met a friend. Number the pictures to match the stories.



3 Listen again. Choose (✓) True or False.

- Ivy met Jane in the robotics club.
- Ivy and Jane are insecure about being nerds.
- Trey and Curtis met at a sports competition.
- Curtis helped Trey become more outgoing.
- Beth's mom and dad met in college.
- Beth's parents fell in love the day they met.

True

False

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4 **LISTENING PLUS** Listen to two people at their high school reunion. Answer the questions.

- When did Jane and Louise meet?
- Who does Jane see in the crowd?
- How has the person changed?
- Why does Louise know so much about the person?

5 **GROUP WORK** Discuss these questions.

- Have you ever had a friend who changed? How did the person change?
- Are there any old friends you'd like to hear from? Who are they?

My friend Frances and I used to play soccer together. But then he started playing computer games, and I don't see him much.

SMART TALK She's the one who ...

Student A: Turn to page 87.
Student B: Turn to page 99.

READING

- 1 BEFORE YOU READ** Look at the title of the article.
What types of friendships do you expect to learn about?



Friendship in the Modern World

If you want to be successful, it helps to have friends. Just ask Larry Page and Sergey Brin. They didn't like each other when they first met at university; in fact, they argued. Later, however, they **reconnected** and started one of the world's best-known companies: Google.

In another example, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet met on the set of *Titanic*, one of the most romantic films ever made. While their characters fell in love, the two actors formed a close friendship that has lasted for more than 20 years.

In the tech world, show business, and many other industries, friendships are **vital**. Friends not only help by providing **emotional** and social support, but also share career information and contacts. We need a lot of friends, and we need different kinds, but how can we manage all these social connections?



One answer is to accept that friends form circles around us. The **inner** circle contains our best friends. These are people who know us well because we grew up with them, or we spend a lot of time together. We are **loyal** to this inner circle and would invite them to our wedding. It was reported that DiCaprio walked Winslet down the aisle to her husband when she got married.

Then there is the middle circle. It contains people we see regularly at parties, school, or work **events**. We enjoy conversations about topics that aren't very serious. These friends require less time and energy, yet they can introduce us to new ideas, contacts, or information. We might see them at a wedding, but we wouldn't necessarily invite them to ours.

The third is the **outer** circle. Think of regular customers, friends of friends, and especially social media contacts. We might not remember their names, but they link us to the wider world. These contacts might post photos of their wedding, and we might "like" them.

Of course these circles are **fluid**. Friendships can change depending on time and **circumstances**. However, having different types of friends gives us a stronger network. And who knows, maybe, like Brin and Page, we might meet a person that changes our lives.



- 2** Read the article. Then choose (✓) the correct column for each of these friendships.

	Inner	Middle	Outer
1. Jim messages a friend's friend to ask about a job at her company.	☐	☐	☐
2. The Smiths and the Aguilars often go camping together.	☐	☐	☐
3. Mark and Jess are soccer coaches in the same league.	☐	☐	☐
4. Dave offers to show the new nurse around the hospital.	☐	☐	☐