

1

Read the two English sayings below and discuss the meanings. As far as friendships are concerned, which one do you think is more true? Then read the text, 'Similar or Different?' Which saying does the writer agree with?



1. Birds of a feather flock together.

A) used to say that people who are very different from each other are often attracted to each other.

2. Opposites attract.

B) said about people who have similar characters or interests, especially ones of which you disapprove, and who often spend time with each other

Similar or Different?

Some people say that "Birds of a feather flock together". However, others believe that "opposites attract." The 'similarity principle' suggests that we are attracted to others like ourselves because we share the same characteristics, tastes and attitudes. In other words, we feel more comfortable with people who think the same way as we do, who like the same things and who have similar intelligence and ability.

The 'opposites principle' suggests that people are attracted to others who are completely different. Sometimes we are attracted to other people because they have qualities which we don't possess, and which we may even envy. For instance, a quiet person who is unhappy about being shy may be attracted to an outgoing person because they wish they were more like them.

A friendship has a greater chance of survival when the friends have similar attitudes. It doesn't matter if they have different likes and dislikes about food, movies or music. Indeed, it would be very boring if everyone had the same opinion. But it is much harder for a friendship to survive when there are differences in ideas about serious subjects such as politics and religion, or cultural differences.

We feel much more secure when connecting with people who are similar to us, and who like what we like. The person who likes what we like is really telling us that we are right to like that thing. After an examination, we prefer to be with people who wrote the same answers. Next time you do an exam, notice how afterwards you like talking to other people who gave the same answers as you!

2

Read the text in Activity 1 again. Decide if each of the sentences below is a topic sentence or a supporting sentence. Write T or S in the box after each sentence.

- a. In other words, we feel more comfortable with people who think the same way as we do, who like the same things and who have similar intelligence and ability. ☐
- b. The 'opposites principle' suggests that people are attracted to others who are completely different. ☐
- c. Indeed, it would be very boring if everyone had the same opinion. ☐
- d. After an examination, we prefer to be with people who wrote the same answers. ☐

2B) Find the following sentences in the text and match:-

1 A sentence that gives an example of something.

A) However, others believe that "opposites attract."

2)

A sentence that expresses a similar idea to the sentence before.

B) because we share the same characteristics, tastes and attitudes. (paragraph 1)

-because they wish they were more like them. (paragraph 2)

3)

A sentence that expresses the opposite idea to the sentence before.

C)For instance, a quiet person who is unhappy about being shy.... (Paragraph 2)

4)

A phrase that gives a reason for something.

D)In other words, we feel more comfortable with people.... who (paragraph 1)