

## Lesson 18: Friends

Hi! Welcome to the Article Discussion lesson!

Today's topic is about "***Friends.***"

Have fun learning English!

### Activity 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions

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**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

#### Vocabulary

- **mutual** – used to describe feelings that two or more people have for each other equally, or actions that affect two or more people equally
- **interpersonal** – connected with relationships between people
- **throng** – large, dense crowd of people
- **tersely** – concisely
- **succor** – assistance and support in difficult times
- **foe** – a person who feels enmity, hatred, or malice toward another; enemy

## Activity 2 | Article

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**Directions:** Read the article aloud with your teacher.

### Friends

The notion of friendship might be to some extent culture-bound. However, in every culture a person is perceived as a social being, and social interactions are considered an **intrinsic** part of a healthy development. We are regarded as creatures with infinite needs, and in fulfilling some of them, collaboration with others is mandatory.

Friendship can broadly be defined as a relationship of **mutual** affection between two or more people. It is a stronger form of **interpersonal** bond than an association. In day-to-day affairs, we encounter numerous people with an extensive assortment of qualities. In that **throng**, we single out the best matches for ourselves, and mold the interactions according to our needs and interests.

“A friend in need is a friend indeed” is a saying that **tersely** sums up an understanding of friendship for most people. True friendship includes mutual dependence, understanding, and support. In times of adversity, friends should be the ones a person can rely on. **Succor** can come in copious forms, from lifting someone’s spirits, to helping someone by actually lifting something.

Positive criticism is an indivisible part of friendship as well. Candor is greatly treasured, and amongst true friends, it should never be called into question. A friend’s frown is said to be better than a **foe’s** praise.

No matter how dissimilar we are, it is believed that our own well-being heavily relies upon these interactions. For most people, life without friends is inconceivable, and a true friend is the greatest of all blessings.

### Activity 3 | Question and Answer

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**Directions:** Answer these questions about the article.

1. Why do human beings have the need to interact with others?
2. According to the essay, what is the definition of friends?
3. How do we choose friends?
4. How is the notion of “true friendship” explained in this article?
5. Why is positive criticism important?

## Activity 4 | Summary

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**Directions:** Make a summary of this article, focusing on the main topic. After that, your teacher will give you an example of the summary.

## Activity 5 | Thoughts

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**Directions:** Check the following quote, and share your opinion with your teacher:

“The notion of friendship might be to some extent culture- bound.”

1. How do you understand this quote? Do you agree with the writer’s opinion? Why?
2. Do you think other human interactions are perceived differently within different cultures?
3. How is the perception of friendship different among children and adults?

## Activity 6 | Free Conversation

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**Directions:** Answer these questions related to the topic of the article. Have a free conversation about it with your teacher.

1. Do you have any childhood friendships that are still strong today?
2. Do you consider yourself a good friend?
3. What are the things you look for in a friend?
4. What factors may result in the breakdown of a good friendship?
5. Do you think it is a good idea to borrow money from a friend? Why or why not?
6. "Friendship can make or break us." How do you understand this quote? Do you agree with the writer's opinion? Why?
7. Common interests are regarded as important in friendship. What is your opinion on this?
8. How do friendships develop through time? What do you think has the biggest influence on this development?
9. "There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." How do you understand this quote? Do you agree with the writer's opinion? Why? Is there something that you think could be more important?
10. How important are relatives in comparison with friends?