

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Friendship as you get older

Level: **B1 - B2** · Time: **60 minutes** · Topic: relationships, life

1

Let's start light.

In pairs. Quick answers — no overthinking.

1. Who's the friend you've known the longest?

2. When did you last make a NEW friend? How?

3. What's something only your oldest friend knows about you?

4. Easier to make friends now or 10 years ago?

2

Get the conversation going.

Is it normal for friendships to fade — or are we just bad at keeping them?

Discuss in small groups. No right answer. 4 minutes.

3

Vocabulary · Meet the words

New vocabulary

Read each word with its definition. Practise saying it out loud.

a close friend

someone you share important things with

an acquaintance

someone you know, but not deeply

to drift apart

to slowly lose touch with someone

to lose touch

to stop contacting each other

a falling-out

a sudden argument that ends a friendship

to reconnect

to start being friends again after time apart

a friendship group

a small circle of people who hang out together

to be there for someone

to support them when they need you

4 Vocabulary · Practice

Fill the gap with the right word

Pick from the word bank below. Some words won't be used.

WORD BANK

close friend

acquaintance

drifted apart

lost touch

falling-out

reconnect

friendship group

be there

1. I had a huge _____ with my best friend in school — we didn't speak for years.
2. She's not a _____ — I only see her at work parties, honestly.
3. After uni, my whole _____ slowly fell apart. Life happened.
4. My job was a nightmare and she really helped me _____ — I won't forget it.
5. We _____ over WhatsApp after 12 years. So weird, and so good.
6. He's an _____, not a friend. There's a difference.

5 Expressions · Sound natural

Useful expressions & idioms

Native speakers use these constantly. Memorise as whole chunks.

"thick as thieves"

→ very close, do everything together

"to go way back"

→ to have known each other a long time

"to grow apart"

→ to slowly become different people

"a friend for life"

→ someone you'll always have

"to ghost someone"

→ to suddenly stop replying

6

Pick a side.

One word answer first. Then defend it. No middle ground.

1

Two close friends

OR

Twenty acquaintances

2

A friend who's brutally honest

OR

A friend who always agrees with you

3

Lose touch slowly

OR

Have one big falling-out

4

A friend you only see once a year

OR

A daily group chat

7 Discussion · Dig deeper

Now let's go deeper.

Use the new vocabulary and expressions in your answers.

1. Why do friendships often fade in your 30s and 40s? Is it natural — or avoidable?

2. Is it OK to ghost a friendship that no longer feels right? Or do you owe them a conversation?

3. Can a friend from childhood and a friend you made last year be equally close?

4. What makes someone a 'friend for life' instead of just an acquaintance?

8 Agree / Disagree · Take a stand

Do you agree?

Strongly agree / agree / disagree / strongly disagree. Why?

1

"After 30, it's almost impossible to make real new friends."

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

2

"Quality matters more than quantity — two close friends is enough for anyone."

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

3

"If a friendship needs constant effort, it's not a real friendship."

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

4

"Social media keeps friendships alive — it doesn't replace them."

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

9 Hypothetical · What would you do?

What would YOU do?

Read each scenario. Discuss in pairs. Be honest — there's no right answer.

A

Your closest friend tells you they don't like your new partner. They give you specific reasons. How do you handle the conversation — and what does it change?

B

An old friend you haven't seen in 5 years messages you out of nowhere asking to borrow money. What do you do, and what does your answer say about the friendship?

C

You realise you've slowly become an acquaintance, not a close friend, to someone who's still treating you like family. Do you tell them? How?

10 Sentence stems · Finish each thought

Complete each sentence

Be honest. Be specific. Use today's vocabulary where you can.

1. I tend to drift apart from people when _____
2. The friend I'd call at 3am is _____
3. I knew we were no longer close when _____
4. The friendship I miss most is _____
5. What I look for in a close friend is _____

11 Share & discuss · In pairs

Now share your sentences

1. Take turns reading your completed sentences.

2. Ask one follow-up question after each — get the story behind it.

3. Find ONE sentence you both agree with and one you disagree on.

Tip: Don't agree just to be polite. Honest disagreement is more interesting.

12 Production · Speak for 1 minute

Your turn — talk for 1 minute

Pick ONE prompt. Plan for 30 seconds. Then speak for 60. Partner listens.

A Tell the story of a friendship that ended — and how you feel about it now.

B Describe your oldest friend. What's made the friendship last?

C Talk about a time you reconnected with someone after years apart.

13 Recall · What stuck?

Before we wrap up...

Without looking at your notes. How many can you remember?

VOCABULARY

Name 5 of today's 8 new words

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

EXPRESSIONS

Name 3 expressions from today

1. " _____ "

2. " _____ "

3. " _____ "