

Making Friends



People use the word “friend” in a variety of ways. A friend can mean anything from a casual acquaintance to someone you've known your whole life. Whoever they are, friends are an important part of life at every stage. They provide companionship and emotional support.

However, friendship is not a premeditated act. We don't just decide that someone would make a useful friend to us and then “make friends” with him. We become friends because we share interests or enjoy being in each other's company. We don't have friends because of what they can do for us but because of what we share with each other.

Having good friends is more important than having good grades. If someone has true friends, he will always do well in life. He will know who to go to for advice, and he will be sure to get the help he needs because friends take care of friends. But if someone is only smart, he will always have to take care of his problems by himself.

A few pointers for making friends:

- 1.Reach out to others. Try to be open to new experiences and relationships.
- 2.Participate in classes, clubs, or volunteer organizations. These activities will bring you into contact with people who share similar interests.
- 3.Smile.
- 4.Become genuinely interested in other people.
- 5.Remember that someone's name is to them the sweetest and most important sound in any language.
- 6.Be a good listener. Encourage others to talk about themselves.
- 7.Talk in terms of the other person's interest.
- 8.Make the other person feel important – and do it sincerely.
- 9.Give honest and sincere appreciation.
- 10.Respect the other person's opinion even when you don't agree.
- 11.Don't criticize, condemn or complain.
- 12.Don't be judgmental and never give advice unless it's specifically asked for.
- 13.Don't expect too much from anybody. Take what they can give, and be prepared to be more generous in return.
- 14.Never drop in unexpectedly.
- 15.Be unquestioningly loyal. Never break a confidence. Your friends need to know they can trust you.
- 16.Be supportive of your friends. It's important to love them despite their faults!

Sources: Teen Talk 1
Interchange 3

Vocabulary

premeditated
reach out
genuinely
sincere
criticize
condemn
judgmental
generous
drop in
supportive

Comprehension

- 1.Why is friendship not a premeditated act?
- 2.What is better than doing well in school? Why?
- 3.What are friends supposed to do for each other?
- 4.What happens if you're smart but you don't have friends?
- 5.What are the best ways to win and keep friends?