"Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865), 16th president of the United States

1. Friends Discussion

1. What is a friend? What is true friendship?
2. What are the best qualities in a friend?
3. Do you have a lot of friends? Is it possible to have a lot of true friends?
4. Do you find it easy to make new friends? How do you make new friends? Is it easier to make friends as a child or as an adult? Are these friends different?
5. What do you like to do with your friends?
6. Are your friends similar to you, or are they very different?
7. What's the nicest thing a friend has ever done for you?
8. Which famous people would you like to be friends with? Why?

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2. Friends Vocabulary

- **BFF (best friend forever)** (noun) – *an informal way to describe the closest friends.*
- **to stab someone in the back** (verb), **backstabber** (noun) – *to betray a friend; someone who betrays a friend.*
- **two-faced** (adjective) – *deceitful or insincere; to say different things to different people.*
- **a shoulder to cry on** (noun) – *a person, especially a friend, who provides sympathy and support when someone is going through a difficult situation.*
- **to drift apart (from someone)** (verb) – *when two people become less intimate, lose interest in each other or lose personal contact.*
- **the enemy of my enemy is my friend** (saying) – *two parties, despite their differences, should work together to defeat a common enemy.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. After I moved to a different city, I **drifted apart** from most of my friends in New York. We don't really speak much anymore apart from a comment here and there on social media.
2. After promising that he would not apply to the same position that Kelly intended to apply to, John **stabbed** her **in the back** and applied for it anyway, eventually being appointed to the role.
3. Gemma has been my **BFF** since we met over 30 years ago in high school.
4. In World War 2, the Allied Powers, including the United States and the USSR, adhered to the concept that **the enemy of my enemy is my friend** in order to defeat the Axis Powers.
5. I know you're going through a difficult time after the divorce and everything else, but if you ever need **a shoulder to cry on**, you know I'm always here for you.
6. She's so **two-faced**! She told Helen that her work was great, but then told Gerald that her work was terrible!

Education vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Do you have a BFF? Can you describe them?
2. What kind of things do backstabbers do to their friends?
3. Have you ever had any two-faced friends?
4. Have you ever given a friend a shoulder to cry on?
5. Why do friends drift apart?
6. Do you agree that the enemy of my enemy is my friend? Are there any exceptions?

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3. Video: The Purpose of Friendship

You are going to watch a video by The School of Life called "The Purpose of Friendship."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-friends/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Sentence completion

1. Although friendship should be a highlight of our lives, it's also one of the most **disappointing** things in our lives.
2. The problem with friendship is that there is often no feeling of **purpose**.
3. Defining what friendship is for can help us to decide what we should be doing with the different people in **our lives**.
4. We need collaborators to help us realise the demands of our **imagination**.

Multiple choice

5. How did Jason assemble the Argonauts?

   a) He sailed across the ocean *b) He found the Golden Fleece* ***c) He networked***

6. Which world changing ideas did Jesus and his disciples spread?

   a) peace and happiness *b) love and friendship* ***c) forgiveness and compassion***

7. What is the human condition full of?

   a) terror *b) timidity* *c) tranquillity*

8. A reassuring true friend would tell us about their own what?

   a) achievements ***b) embarrassments*** *c) successes*

Short answer

9. Life gives us endless lessons in the need for what? **To be serious**
10. How can we be around friends we really trust? **Silly/Daft**
11. What does the thinking friend use as a mirror to help us with the task of knowing ourselves? **Gentle but probing questions**
12. What are false friends who don't share our interests or reassure us also known as? **Proto friends**

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4. Friends Conversation Questions

1. What do friends rely on each other for?
2. Do you agree with the saying "a friend in need is a friend indeed"? What does this mean?
3. Is it a good idea to lend money to a friend? Why or why not?
4. Are the 'friends' on your social media real friends?
5. Why do friends fall out? Have you ever fallen out with a friend?
6. Is it better to have friends that are the same sex as you? What's the difference between friends that are the same sex and friends that are different sexes?
7. Can men and women really be "just friends"? Could you still be good friends with an ex?
8. Why do humans form friendships? Do we even need friends?

5. Friends Writing Task

Write about your opinion of friendship. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- A description of your closest friends.
- The best qualities in a friend.
- The purpose of friendship.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people prefer to have one or two very close friends. Other people, however, prefer to have a large group of different friends. Discuss both points of view and give your own opinion.

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