

TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS

Here is a scale showing closeness and distance in relationships in different contexts.

	closer	→	more distant
friendship:	best friend	good friend	friend
			acquaintance
work:	close colleague		colleague/workmate
love/			
romance:	lover	steady boy/girlfriend	ex-*
marriage:	wife/husband/partner		ex-*

mate = a good friend, e.g. classmate, schoolmate, flatmate, roommate, shipmate, workmate

workmate = non-professional

colleague = professional

fiancé/ée = dated

husband-/wife-to-be = journalistic style

partner = person who I live with but am not married to

1 Read the text and answer the questions.

Friendship

I think we should all be more careful in the use of the word **friend**. It does not, and should not, be applied to a casual **acquaintance**. There are **colleagues**, **allies** and **partners** – all of them pretending to be friends because it suits their purpose. **True friends** want nothing from you and don't expect any special favours. We should ask nothing from them except **loyalty**, despite our faults. They should speak well **behind our backs**. Such friends are hard to find

- 1) Can you call all the people around you friends? Why? Why not?
- 2) What should true friends be like?
- 3) How many true friends do you have?

2 Fill in the gaps with one or more suitable words and expressions.

to form a friendship	an old friend
to become friends	a close friend
to make friends	a good friend
to be friendly (with)	my best friend
friendly	girlfriend / boyfriend
unfriendly	a friendly smile
user-friendly	

- 1 She is cheerful and friendly all time.
- 2 The new student in the class is upset because we've been towards him.
- 3 Our developed quickly over the weeks that followed.
- 4 She's not a very friend – she's just an acquaintance.
- 5 The two boys friends very quickly.
- 6 I've just bought a new computer but the manual is not very – I can't understand a word it says.

Positive relationships

Try to explain the meaning of the highlighted expressions in the following sentences.

- 1 John and I **get on well** with each other.
- 2 Sue and I are true **soul mates**.
- 3 Nelly was my mother's **lifelong companion**.
- 4 I could say that Rob is a **man after my own heart**.
- 5 Patricia and Ann are **inseparable**.
- 6 Jim and Tony have been **bosom friends / buddies** for years.
- 7 There's always been a **close bond** between Karen and her aunt.

Match the following definitions to the highlighted expressions above.

- a) relationship of togetherness
- b) people who feel close to each other in spirit and understand each other deeply
- c) always want to be together

- d) friend who is with you all your life
- e) very close, good friends
- f) sb. you admire because he/she does or thinks the same as you
- g) have good relationship

Negative relationships

Try to explain the meaning of the highlighted expressions in the following sentences.

- 1 Adrian and Liz **don't see eye to eye**.
- 2 I've **fallen out with** my parents again.
- 3 Tony and Jane have **broken up / split up**.
- 4 His love affair with Anna has **turned sour**.
- 5 Our marriage **has had its ups and downs**, but basically we're OK.
- 6 I think he comes from a **broken home**.
- 7 Let's try and **make it up**.

Match the following definitions to the highlighted expressions above.

- a. their relationship ended
- b. they often argue or disagree with each other
- c. be friends again after a row
- d. have arguments again
- e. have bad and good moments
- f. family split up by divorce
- g. become bad

General social relationships

Translate the highlighted expressions.

The replies in these conversations are another way of saying what the first speaker says.

A: You seem to be very similar to Alan – the way you think and look at life.

B: Yes, we've always been kindred spirits.

A: What a nice wedding? Ian and Sally seem to be perfect for each other.

B: Yes, such a well-matched couple!

A: Our Spanish friends are always phoning their brothers and sisters.

B: Yes, well, I think family ties in Spain are much stronger than here.

Discussion

1 Who is a real soul mate for you?

2 Who is a person after your own heart?

3 Who do you feel a close bond with?

4 Who is a well-matched couple in your opinion?