

INTRODUCTION

Many people should feel fortunate to have a friend. Unfortunately, some people lose friends unexpectedly and wonder why? A friend should be looked after like a bag of diamonds because friendship is very valuable. As friendships are very important assets in life, I'm sure most people will not disagree with having a friend. In addition to that, friendship does not know what an age boundary is so that we can be friends with babies, the elderly or people of our own age. No matter who they are, you will have to respect them (especially the elderly).

FRIENDSHIPS ARE KEY IN LIFE

We need a friend to keep us company. We need a friend to cheer us up when we are mournful. We need a friend, a faithful and loving friend. Friendship is the key to enjoyment and fun, which leads to a happy life. I believe a friend would be the most priceless gift in life and friendship would give you a free path to freedom. From my point of view, when I have a friend around me, smiles and laughter can be heard and seen. My ears are bursting to listen and my eyes are yanking my head to turn and look. Because of friends, your life can be changed upside-down. Before you had your best friend, you were a flower seed. As soon as your friend walked into your life, your seed became a stem, as you got closer and closer to each other, you became a full-bloomed flower and both of you created a healthy and strong friendship.

ANYONE CAN HAVE FRIENDS

Friendship cannot always be between two close individuals, it can be with three or more as well. Our friendships won't always get stronger as time ticks its way through every day unless you are an honest and truthful friend. True friends give you the proper advice for a situation you need help for. Everyone needs a person to share their feelings and secrets with. True friends light up your life like a candle in the dark, they hold your hand when you fall and make you smile when you are down. In one word, they are always there for you. "Genuine friendships don't fade away with time" is a meaningful quote, very meaningful indeed.

A FRIENDSHIP EXAMPLE

Let me tell you about a day that friendship saved me from bullies (the day I realised that friendships were very important)! We moved to America and it was my first day of Year 4 in New York. I was damp and covered in sweat, it was the summer! We nervously walked into the class in a squiggly line and the teacher greeted us with a warm smile. Unexpectedly, the first Maths lesson zoomed past quickly as the activities were choppy. The bell rang, DING DONG! Everyone ran out of their seats tripping over untucked chairs. I walked outside and I noticed from the corner of my eye that a girl, a bit older than me, was staring at me with an evil grin, holding a tennis ball ready to throw. Suddenly, I realised what was happening, she was throwing the ball at ME! I looked around desperate to find somewhere to hide. Even though the playground was colossal, my nerves and frustration were taking over and my legs were glued to the ground. WHIZZ! The ball flew through the air ready to strike my face. Ok, I thought, I will have to go through this. SNATCH! RIP! Just in time a hand reached for my shoulder and pulled me to the side. My sleeve ripped! I stared down at it, flabbergasted, at least it wasn't my favourite green-smocked dress or I would've gone crazy. As the crowd of children parted, a girl around my age grinned at me sheepishly. I grinned back and she came over to me, took my hand and said "Hey my name is Amelia, don't go near Mia, she's one of those maniacs" bewitching people whoever they are, her poor parents are suffering a lot! Sorry about your sleeve, I could lend you my fabulous summer dress! What's your name?" From that day, me and Amelia were best friends and nothing could break us up.

MY OPINION ABOUT FRIENDS

Friendship should be unconditional, we should not make friends gain personal benefit and must always help and support our friends but must expect nothing in return. They will always understand if something happens and will always want to make you beam as bright as a rainbow! Friends encourage us if we are nervous, for example when I was reciting a poem for Poetry By Heart my friend all my friends were wishing me good luck. They were elated with the results, but they were still happy even though I didn't win. A very true statement, a strong pair of friends don't always need a conversation to keep their relationship alive! When money starts being involved in your friendships I guess it's going to end in the wrong way! One more thing, when you have a friend with you, together you can escape to a world of your own. Your imagination and your friend's imagination mashed together will make a wondrous bestselling dream that everyone wants to accomplish. A friend can come in all shapes and sizes as I mentioned before. Friendship can save the day as I told you in my story example paragraph I wrote a few paragraphs away. They have an opportunity to know everything about you, so then both of you can enjoy yourselves knowing each other properly. A friend is someone irreplaceable, someone very trustworthy and someone you can open your heart to every time you feel down. They would never judge you (if they do, they are not your friend).

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LOSE A FRIEND?

It feels like being ripped apart and not into perfect halves. Friends are the people who can make the good times better and the hard times easier to live with. When you suddenly lose them in some argument or a jaw-dropping accident, well you cannot be the old you, the one you were when you had a best friend. Your heart melts very quickly, and your life changes upside down, it might have been the worst thing in your life or something else. I know how it feels, I have been through it too, well after a while I had new friends. Then it becomes a routine, friends keep coming and going and coming, you'll get used to it. It feels very easy to go through, but actually, it's not at all very easy. Every day, you might just be grumpy. You might be feeling that in this terrible case as your friendship means so much to you.

WHAT IS AN IDEAL FRIEND?

An ideal friend would be a person who would be the best example of friendship. They have the same goals as you, at the same time, on the same day! An ideal friend would always be ready to listen... share all their secrets with you and expect you to be secretive like them. Without a doubt, an ideal friend would spend quality time with you and won't allow others to be mean to you. They would be affectionate towards you and always think twice before giving you any advice. They are like a shadow, watching you everywhere you go. They think of you even when you are not present. You are attracted to each other like magnets - you don't want to leave each other. Time flies very quickly when you have a friend, (very true, according to me and my friend).

ARE FRIENDSHIPS NECESSARY?

Yes, you need a friend for company. You can't just glide around the playground like a ghost, you'll be staring down at the concrete muttering about so and so. You need a friend! Remember: Write down in your to-do list, I NEED A FRIEND, NOW. Your future friend is not shy, your future friend never seems to lie. Your future friend never ignores you, your future friend always adores you. Your future friend is loyal but not necessarily royal. Friends boost your feelings right up to the top of Mt. Everest (without any safety clothing, just in your pyjamas)! The best thing about friends is that they don't put you down or deliberately hurt your feelings. The reason I find friends handy is that anything is

possible when you have the right friends with you. Friendships create inerasable memories which get stuck inside your head.

ANOTHER FRIENDSHIP EXAMPLE

This is a real-life experience (a bad, dangerous but true one). This story started a very long time ago when my mum was in college, right now she is thirty-seven. Sssh! I'm not supposed to tell you that. So my mum had just made friends with a girl from her college, and when my mum had finished college that girl moved to a new college. She asked my mum to come over to the college and gossip and say farewells for a while. My mum had no choice but to say yes, so that afternoon she came over to her and they talked for a while. My mum's friend gave her a fizzy drink, she gulped it up pretty quick. Soon after, she felt tired and fainted on one of the college beds. After hours of sleeping, she woke up, said her farewells and walked up to the bus station for the trip back home. On the way, she noticed her favourite gold chain was missing and she was shocked! She called her fiancé (dad) and he started searching around the bus stop. When she told grandma and grandpa they were crying their eyes out, because you know it's very dangerous and something might permanently happen to you. But nothing happened to my mum luckily, only the sleeping catastrophe! The same day, grandpa and grandma phoned the college warden and she said the staff will search everyone and everywhere. Soon, the warden got suspicious and wanted to check mum's friend but as soon as she snatched her bag, mum's friend tried to get it back. But the warden had a superhero grip. She searched through the bag and soon found mum's necklace. Mum's 'friend' was handed to the police and mum, grandpa and grandma found out that in the fizzy drink there was a sleeping salt which makes you sleep for a long time. That's what I call a false friendship.

WILL A FRIENDSHIP ALWAYS BE TRUE?

Not always. When the word friendship comes into your head you only think of happiness, joy, gossiping, spending a good time together, smiling, giggling etc. But other people, might not share the same belief and wouldn't think of happiness and joyfulness only. I'm not sure what the reason behind this is. It could be because when the word friendship comes into my head, I think of happiness and gossip and the other stuff I listed before. In war situations, people from the army try to make friends with their enemies, collect information about their fears and then go back to the military and betray them (but not in a very bad way). Again, not all friendships will be valid as ... you can't find out unless you sneak, which is not a very good idea because nobody wants to be snuck on. Not even me!

WHAT IS A FRIEND? (A REAL ONE!)

A friend is a person who cares for you (not family or something too close which will not be mentioned in this essay, as not necessary). They are always there for you, stand up for you and never make a fuss out of stuff. You can have a friend at school, in your neighbourhood, a friend who is an animal or a family friend (I'm not sure what that means - maybe a friend that your whole family knows?) Your friend can be special like most of mine.

A TIME A FRIEND HAS HELPED A LOT (WITH THINGS I NEED HELP WITH)

I was off! Cycling, (not an expert yet!) I was trying to ride a bit fast, but I needed a lot of effort. All of a sudden, my friend gave me a gentle push, and I was pedalling like I'd been cycling for years! When I first received my bike I wished we could return it as I wasn't interested in having a bike. But that unexpectedly changed when my dad was impatient and wanted me to learn how to ride a bike. So

currently, I am very good at cycling (in my opinion). It is hard to learn, but with a friend's push, I was cycling crazy!

HOW DO MOST FRIENDSHIPS START?

They start with you meeting your friend for the first time and sharing things in common with each other. Accepting or making fun of our quirks, weirdness and personalities is one property of making a friend. In the next few months, you get closer and closer (getting in touch with families and relatives). You make lots of cards and drawings for each other as gifts (not only for occasions (sometimes just for fun) and birthdays). As you grow up, you get into little arguments but that doesn't stop you from being friends! Before I usually get closer to a friend I analyse them. Are they in common with me? Do they stand up for me? Are they kind? Do they help me? After you checked that, you have found a friend (it was straightforward right?) if your friend has completed the whole test without failing! I've tried it with many people, you should too!

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE WORD FRIENDSHIP

Did you know, in Old English, the word friendship was spelt as frēondscipe? Another great fact is that animals can form lifelong friendships with other animals that are not from their species. Friendship is such an important thing, that people have created friendship bracelets, (they have been on trend for a long while) friendship bracelets symbolise how much you care for your friend - they have a hidden message and are very meaningful - the best thing is that they have no limit, they allow you to decorate the way you wish and there is no specific amount you can decorate it as much as you wish!

FRIENDSHIP MEANS UNDERSTANDING NOT AGREEMENT

What this heading means is that when you are having a friend it doesn't mean that you have the same opinion about everything but it means you respect each other's point of view and you can accept a different opinion than your own. If you are a true friend, you should be able to forgive your companion as well as forget any incident that has occurred between you. Close friends understand each other through facial expressions, they reach and understand each other's minds. Sometimes though slight tones of your voice, they can conclude if you are in a happy mood or not etc.