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**authentic
pigeon**

English Speaking Club

Meetup #3: How To Be A Better Friend



May 7, 2025 @ 18:00 (~60 min) Moscow Time



Join our Zoom-meetup to practice speaking English

Send Kirill a message to book your seat → [@mainsdorff](#)



These tasks will help you prepare for the meetup and feel more confident during it. Copy the file to make it editable (File → Make a copy) and do the tasks. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with [Kirill](#) on Telegram.



Task 1: Lead-In

What makes a good friend, do you think?

Your answer:

Task 2.1: Listening for Specific Information

Watch the [video](#) and answer the questions. Then, check your answers using the Answer Key section at the end of this file.

1. In what ways can friendship affect our life?

Your answer:

2. What is the Liking Gap?

Your answer:

3. What is the Acceptance Prophecy?

Your answer:

4. How does talking to other people on a regular basis can help you?

Your answer:

5. What are the two features that define more intimate friendships?

Your answer:

6. According to the video, how can one establish and maintain friendship?

Your answer:

Task 2.2: Vocabulary

Let's explore some interesting vocabulary from the [video](#). Find the words and expressions that mean the following. Then, check your answers, using the Answer Key at the end of this file.

1. to increase or improve something — **to boost**
2. a difficulty or problem that delays or prevents progress —

3. to mentally prepare oneself for a challenging situation —
4. to give a particular impression or seem to be a certain way —
5. the act of refusing to accept someone —
6. a person with whom one shares private thoughts or feelings in confidence —
7. a friendly understanding and communication between people —
8. the quality of being the same, regular, or predictable —
9. a difficult or troubled period in a relationship or situation —

Task 3.1: Critical Thinking

Answer the questions.

1. Is there a friend you would describe as a confidant? What makes your friendship so intimate?

Your answer:

2. Do you have any long-distance friendships? How do you maintain a rapport with this type of friend?

Your answer:

3. How challenging is it to turn surface-level small talk with a casual acquaintance into a meaningful conversation?

Your answer:

4. What kinds of things can lead to setbacks within friendships? How can friends deal with these setbacks together?

Your answer:

5. Would you say that your friendships are among your top priorities?

Your answer:

Task 3.2: Critical Thinking

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Why?

- More often than not, it's easier to do a task with a friend than on your own.

Your answer:

- Overall, people tend to underestimate how much others like them, which is surprising.

Your answer:

- On the whole, anticipating that other people will like you makes you appear warmer and friendlier.

Your answer:

- For the most part, people with different values don't become close friends.

Your answer:

- Broadly speaking, the small things in life are just as important as the big ones when it comes to building closeness.

Your answer:

 more often than not, overall, on the whole, for the most part, broadly speaking = in general

Task 3.3: Critical Thinking

In each pair of ideas, choose the one you agree with more. Explain your choices.

I prefer to have a large number of casual acquaintances in my life.

OR

I prefer to have a small number of close confidants in my life.

When it comes to friendships, I value a person's words.

OR

When it comes to friendships, I value a person's actions.

Social media makes it easier to make friends and maintain friendships.

OR

Social media makes it harder to make friends and maintain friendships.

I am attracted to friendships with people who are like me.

OR

I am attracted to friendships with people who are different to me.

I find it easy to meet new people.

OR

I struggle to make new friends.



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Answer Key is coming

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Answer Key

Task 2.1

1. **In what ways can friendship affect our life?**

Your answer: Friendship can boost our academic performance, help us deal with setbacks, and improve our health. And also it shapes our beliefs, values, and emotional growth.

2. **What is the Liking Gap?**

Your answer: It is our tendency to underestimate how much others enjoy our company. People like us more than we think.

3. **What is the Acceptance Prophecy?**

Your answer: It's a psychological phenomenon where expecting to be liked and accepted by others actually leads to behaviors that make that expectation more likely to come true.

4. **How does talking to other people on a regular basis can help you?**

Your answer: People who regularly talk to others feel less afraid of rejection, more secure in their conversational skills, and more excited to meet new people overall.

5. **What are the two features that define more intimate friendships?**

Your answer: companionship and closeness

6. **According to the video, how can one establish and maintain friendship?**

Your answer: Talk to your friend about simple things like your day or share your interests — your conversations don't have to be deep all the time. Be consistent — stick to plans, chat regularly, and remember the things that are important to each other (like birthdays). Be supportive during challenging times when your friend needs you most of all — listening is powerful.

Task 2.2

1. to increase or improve something — **to boost**
2. a difficulty or problem that delays or prevents progress — **setback**
3. to mentally prepare oneself for a challenging situation — **to psych oneself up**
4. to give a particular impression or seem to be a certain way — **to come across**
5. the act of refusing to accept someone — **rejection**
6. a person with whom one shares private thoughts or feelings in confidence — **confidant**
7. a friendly understanding and communication between people — **rapport**
8. the quality of being the same, regular, or predictable — **consistency**
9. a difficult or troubled period in a relationship or situation — **rough patch**



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