

## Multiple-choice

1 Look at the pictures (1–4). Match the expressions from the box to each picture.

co-operation    emotional support  
having fun    shared experiences

2 Work in pairs. Talk about what you think is most important in a good friendship. Use the expressions from exercise 1 or your own ideas.

3 Read the first paragraph of a text about friendship. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

The most important people for many teenagers are ...

- A people in their family.
- B friends of their family.
- C a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- D their teenage friends.

## WHAT ARE *friends* FOR?

**To many teenagers, their most important relationship is not the one they might have with a boyfriend or girlfriend. It's their relationship with their friends. Indeed, most teenagers prefer to spend more time with their friends than with their family. But what does friendship mean?**

There is a poem in Sanskrit, the classical language of India, which says that friendship must consist of the following elements: giving, taking, sharing secrets, knowing where your friends are, and giving and sharing food with them. This ancient definition seems like a very apt description. Shared interests and opinions are essential. It isn't easy to get on with someone who can't stand your taste in music or fashion.

Most of us have friends – but it's likely that only a few of them can be described as close friends. Robin Dunbar, a British professor of evolutionary psychology, believes that the maximum number of people we can have in our social group at one time is 150. Many of these are casual friends or *acquaintances*. We don't meet them very often, but we might invite them to a big party, for instance. But – according to Dunbar – we don't normally have more than five close friends.

So who is a best friend? It is someone who's there for you when you're feeling miserable – to give you advice when you want it and to just listen when you need someone to talk to. It might be someone you have known all your life, or someone you've recently met.



It might be someone you only see once a year, but when you do get together it feels like you saw him or her only last week. But can you have a best friend of the opposite sex? In theory, the answer should be yes, but in practice, things can get complicated!

These days, social networking sites offer many opportunities to get to know people online. These are usually people who are into the same things as you are (such as music and films), and can give you advice about the different issues you face. For some people, especially those who aren't so self-assured, making friends online is easier. Online friends aren't going to be as demanding as your friends from the real world might be. Moreover, if you get bored with a conversation online, or if someone's messages are getting on your nerves, you can just ignore them. On the other hand, it may not be realistic to expect your online friends to give you real support when you need it – so a balance of online and real-world friends is probably ideal!



### EXAM STRATEGY

- Find and underline the part of the text which contains information about each question.
- Decide which options are definitely incorrect. Then read the relevant part of the text again carefully to decide which of the remaining options is the correct answer.

#### 4 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 What does the Sanskrit poem describe?  
A Why friendships were different in the past.  
B Why sharing a meal is important.  
C What the history of friendship is.  
D What every friendship should have.
- 2 What does the word *acquaintances* in paragraph 3 mean?  
A people you do not know well  
B people you are related to  
C people you are very close to  
D people you work with
- 3 What should a true friend do, according to the text?  
A Hide your secrets from other people.  
B Always be ready to give you advice.  
C Be there to help you whenever you feel miserable.  
D Enjoy the same kind of music as you.
- 4 According to the text, what is **NOT TRUE** about a best friend?  
A You might have known them for a long time.  
B It isn't important to have grown up with them.  
C It's essential that you see them frequently.  
D You don't need to see them regularly.
- 5 What does the author say about online friends?  
A They are easier to make if you aren't confident.  
B You have to share the same hobbies with them.  
C They will never judge you, even if you're boring.  
D They are harder to ignore than friends in real life.

#### 5 Work in pairs. Do you agree with the definition of friendship from the text?



### Words in context

#### 6 Match the words (1–6) from the text with their definitions (a–f).

- |                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| 1 essential    | ___ |
| 2 complicated  | ___ |
| 3 demanding    | ___ |
| 4 miserable    | ___ |
| 5 apt          | ___ |
| 6 self-assured | ___ |
- 
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a | expecting a lot of attention from others                     |
| b | suitable or appropriate                                      |
| c | difficult to understand or deal with                         |
| d | permanently unhappy  |
| e | having a lot of confidence in themselves and their abilities |
| f | completely necessary, extremely important                    |

### Collocations with *get*

#### 7 Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of *get* and a word or phrase from the box.

bored complicated on my nerves on with to know

- 1 Martha keeps singing the same song. She's really \_\_\_\_\_!
  - 2 When Tim's sister fell in love with his best friend, things quickly \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3 I don't understand why Lily and Dan \_\_\_\_\_ each other so well – they are so different!
  - 4 If you didn't complain all the time, I wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ and stop listening.
  - 5 Did they \_\_\_\_\_ each other at university?
- #### 8 Work in pairs. Look at the pictures below and discuss how friendships are changing, and what you think about this.





LANGUAGE REVIEW

infinitive and gerund (-ing form)

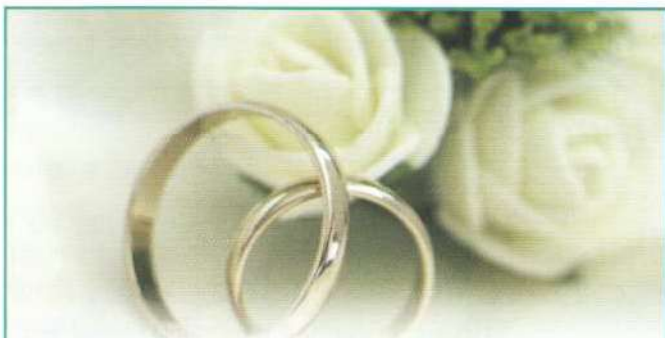
1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: the infinitive or gerund.

- Do you mind \_\_\_\_\_ (turn) off the music?  
I'm trying \_\_\_\_\_ (get) some sleep!
- \_\_\_\_\_ (live) as part of a community is important to help you avoid \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) lonely.
- My dad has never forgotten \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) my mum for the first time, but he did forget \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) her an anniversary present this year.
- If you want \_\_\_\_\_ (get) the author's autograph, it will mean \_\_\_\_\_ (queue) for at least an hour.

Grammar reference pages 114–116

Grammatical multiple-choice cloze

2 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).



The right time to get married?

Nowadays, young people are waiting longer than ever before <sup>1</sup> to get married. While there is <sup>2</sup> perfect age to marry, it is often not until people reach thirty that they are able to make such a big commitment. Delaying marriage until their thirties <sup>3</sup> people more time to develop personally and professionally. As a result, by the time they marry, they <sup>4</sup> to provide financial stability for their partners and children. Also, because they are emotionally more mature, they may also find it <sup>5</sup> to reach a compromise when it is necessary in their relationship.

- |             |               |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 A decide  | B decided     | C to decide | D deciding    |
| 2 A no      | B not         | C never     | D none        |
| 3 A allowed | B had allowed | C allows    | D is allowing |
| 4 A can     | B are able    | C have      | D need        |
| 5 A easily  | B easiest     | C easier    | D the easiest |

Lexical multiple-choice cloze

EXAM STRATEGY

Read the whole text first without filling in the gaps to find out what it is about. Then read it again and choose the correct answer.

3 EXAM TASK Read the text. For questions (1–10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).



The earliest portrayals of dads on TV were simplistic, sticking to the image of what an ideal father might be <sup>1</sup>. The dads of the 1950s worked full-time, while mums stayed at home to <sup>2</sup> up the children. Jim Anderson from the sitcom *Father Knows Best* returned from his job, took off his jacket and rolled up his sleeves to solve all the problems <sup>3</sup> home. The roles of dads started to change as feminism gained popularity and women began to be seen as strong and independent working mothers. And in the 1970s these shows were <sup>4</sup> by new ones that mirrored changes in society. Suddenly, blended families and work-from-home dads appeared on the screen. Male <sup>5</sup> started taking responsibility for providing emotional support at home, <sup>6</sup> if they could not hope to get it right all the time. Then, the late 1980s featured the rise of the idiotic dad. Homer Simpson in *The Simpsons* was the first of many <sup>7</sup> dads who needed more looking <sup>8</sup> than his children. After moving from wise dads to clueless dads, today's TV fathers are beginning to find a <sup>9</sup>. With cutting-edge shows and reality television, we are getting a more realistic <sup>10</sup> of fatherhood. Now, TV series show dads who are breadwinners, nurturers and great dads!

- |              |                  |             |             |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 A as       | B like           | C for       | D such      |
| 2 A make     | B raise          | C bring     | D take      |
| 3 A in       | B around         | C on        | D at        |
| 4 A taken    | B made           | C opened    | D replaced  |
| 5 A actors   | B characters     | C directors | D producers |
| 6 A even     | B perhaps        | C despite   | D just      |
| 7 A impolite | B understandable | C immature  | D unclear   |
| 8 A to       | B round          | C through   | D after     |
| 9 A harmony  | B balance        | C peace     | D calm      |
| 10 A view    | B look           | C approach  | D belief    |