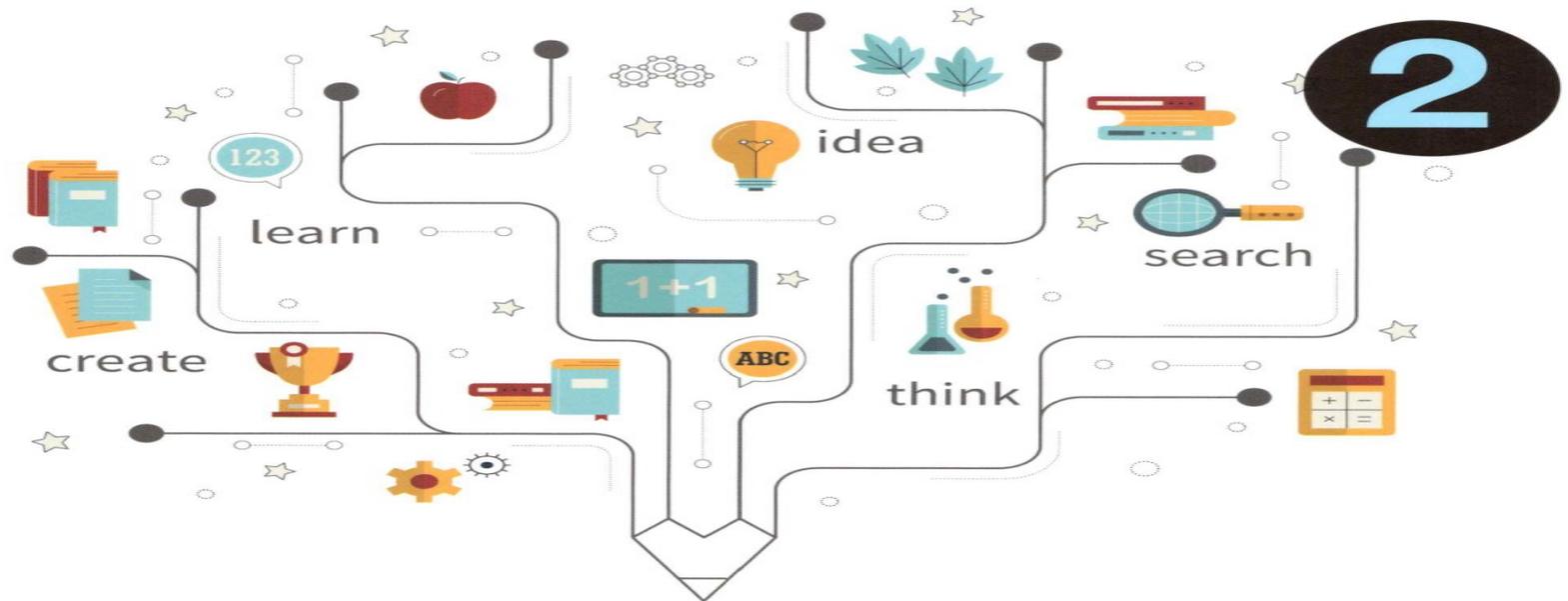


# Active English DISCUSSION



Andrew Finch



# Unit 1 Friendship

## Brainstorming Me

- How many friends do you have?
- How often do you meet your friends?
- How well do you know your friends?

### Task 1 Us 2

- Exchange books with your partner.
- Ask your partner these questions and write his/her answers.

1 How did you meet your best friend? \_\_\_\_\_

2 What do you have in common? \_\_\_\_\_

3 What do you like to do together? \_\_\_\_\_

4 How often do you meet? \_\_\_\_\_

5 Have you ever argued? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

6 What qualities are important to you in a friend? \_\_\_\_\_

7 Do you find it easy to make friends? Why? Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

8 Are you a good friend? Why? Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

### Task 2 Us 2

- Exchange books with your partner.
- Ask your partner the questions below.
- Write his/her answers in the boxes.
- Look at the **Answer** section and tell your partner what his/her answers mean.

### Please tell me ...

- 1) ... the first number you think of.
- 2) ... the second number that comes to mind.
- 3) ... the name of a person of the opposite gender.
- 4) ... the name of a friend or family member.
- 5) ... the name of another person (anyone).
- 6) ... the name of another person (anyone).
- 7) ... another person of the opposite gender.
- 8) ... the title of the first song you think of.
- 9) ... the title of the second song you think of.
- 10) ... the title of the third song you think of.
- 11) ... another song.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Friendship

Track 1

- Read this passage together and listen to track 1.
- While you read, match the words and definitions at the bottom of the page.

Us Groups



Friendship goes back to the dawn of history. The earliest known written tale, The Epic of Gilgamesh (c. 2100 BCE), often seen as the first great work of literature, is about the friendship between Gilgamesh, the king of Uruk, and Enkidu, a wild man created by the gods to fight him. Homer told of the friendship of Achilles and Patroclus, in his Iliad (c. 760-710 BCE) and the Hebrew Bible describes the friendship promise made by David, King of Israel, and Jonathan. Furthermore, the philosophers Aristotle and Plato both said friendship was an important characteristic of human beings.

But what is friendship? This might seem to be a strange question at first sight. After all, we all have friends, and we know what friendships mean to us. When we look deeper into this question, however, we find that friendship has many meanings. In the most frequently used meaning, two or more people share knowledge, worth, and affection. They like being together and want whatever is best for each other. Their tastes (food, clothes, music, etc.) are usually similar, and they like doing the same activities. They are sympathetic, honest, and understanding to each other. Most of all, a good friend will give unpleasant advice if necessary, and will share hard times as well as good times. As the saying goes, ‘A friend in need is a friend indeed.’

So it might be difficult to put one’s finger on the exact meaning, but we can see that friendship is a basic human quality. The Roman scholar Cicero summed it up when he said, ‘Life is nothing without friendship.’



Match the words and phrases on the left to the definitions on the right.

- |                     |   |   |                                       |
|---------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| at first sight      | • | • | character or nature                   |
| frequently          | • | • | define; describe                      |
| worth               | • | • | kind; caring; thoughtful              |
| similar             | • | • | like; resembling                      |
| sympathetic         | • | • | often                                 |
| dawn of history     | • | • | seeing for the first time             |
| philosopher         | • | • | someone who studies ideas about truth |
| characteristic      | • | • | special feature                       |
| put one’s finger on | • | • | the beginning of civilization         |
| quality             | • | • | value; meaning                        |

## Comprehension Check

1. How many characteristics of friendship can you find in the reading passage?
2. Who was Enkidu?
3. Is friendship natural, or do we learn it?
4. What will a true friend do in difficult situations?
5. Can you find another word for 'quality' in the passage?
6. Is it easy to define 'friendship'?

## Think for Yourself

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> What can you find out about Gilgamesh?   | <input type="checkbox"/> What does 'c.' mean in 'c. 2100 BCE'?                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What do you know about Achilles?<br>Check out <a href="http://google.co.kr">google.co.kr</a> or <a href="http://ask.com">ask.com</a> . | <input type="checkbox"/> What sort of 'unpleasant advice' would a good friend give? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What does 'BCE' mean?<br>Check out <a href="http://google.co.kr">google.co.kr</a> or <a href="http://ask.com">ask.com</a> .            | <input type="checkbox"/> What is a 'fair weather friend'?                           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> What is a 'false friend'?                                  |

## Background Information

### Have you heard of these types of friendship?

- Pen pal, E-pal:** People become friends through writing letters or emails to each other
- Internet friendship:** People meet and become friends online
- Platonic life-partner:** Two people of either gender become extremely close friends and live together.
- Boston marriage:** Two ladies live together in friendship, without male support.
- Blood brotherhood:** Two friends swear to help each other for ever and show this by mixing some blood.

### Did you know?

- There is a city in Nebraska, USA, called Friend.
- There is a university in Kansas, USA, called Friends University.
- The 'Friends' sitcom ran from 1994 to 2004. It won an EMMY award and was one of the most popular TV series of all time. It has been shown in more than 100 countries.

