**LET’S TALK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND**

**RELATIONS WITH FRIENDS**

There are no written rules of how to make friends. Usually friendship between people grows when they have common views and judgments on things and events, common interests and ambitions. A real friend should treat me with understanding, sympathy and compassion, exactly the way they want to be treated by me.

Friendship is a unique thing that happens between two people. And it’s a great gift. A lot of people say they have got best friends, but I wonder how many people actually have a best friend in the real sense of the word.

According to a survey, young people today have large groups of friends. Having a close group of people to depend on seems more attractive and more secure than one exclusive relationship with one other person. I can’t agree with people who think like that.

I can discuss anything with my best friend. When I walk into a room, she knows exactly what mood I’m in, what I need. If I ask for help or advice, she will give me her helping hand immediately and never leave me at a loss.

To my mind, this is what real friendship means. I wouldn’t change our friendship, our exclusive relationship for having two or three new friends. So, “be slow at choosing a friend, but slower in changing him”.

Like all young people I like to have friends around me because they make life more interesting and enjoyable. I have a few friends whose company I always enjoy. We spend a lot of time together doing various sports, discussing our favourite books and films or listening to music.

My best friend is Maxim. He’s my neighbour and I have known him for over five years since we came to live in the same block of flats. He is a year older than me and he left school last year.

Maxim is a good-looking young man with thick dark hair, blue eyes and an attractive smile. But of course, his personality matters to me more than his appearance. He is a true friend who has never let me down. I trust him and I know that I can always depend on him. It’s nice to have a friend who shares in all your troubles and joys. He has a wonderful sense of humour and it’s always fun to be in his company.

Maxim is a first-year student at the Belarusian State University. He studies law and I am sure he’ll make a good lawyer because he is intelligent, hardworking and well-organized.

We live in the same block of flats and we spend a lot of time together. We have much in common. We like the same music and we enjoy the same sports. We may disagree on some points and our tastes in films and books are sometimes different, but we never quarrel. Maxim is tolerant and never presses his opinion and views on others. He is a good listener mid always lets his opponent speak his mind.

Surely he is not an angel and has his drawbacks, lie can be stubborn and hot-tempered at times but this doesn’t affect our relations in the least.

I am proud of having such a friend and I’ll try to keep up our friendship as long as I can.

I have lots of friends around me. They make my life more interesting and enjoyable. Now I’d like to tell you about my best friend Olga. She is my classmate and lives next door to me. Olga is a pretty girl. She is thin, slender and stylish. She has got lovely dark hair, blue eyes with long lashes and a straight nose. Her skin is fine. She usually wears sweaters with knee-length skirts or trousers.

Olga is an active and energetic person. She can’t bear just sitting around doing nothing. It makes her impatient and restless. She knows what she wants, and I think she is sure to achieve her goal.

Olga is hardworking, organized and does well at school. She is a kind of person who always knows how to have a good time. Olga has a good sense of humour and never looks moody. She enjoys being the centre of attention while I am always nervous in public.

I can’t say I’m passive, but still I’m different. My problem can be summarized in the words: lack of confidence. I’m shy with other people who may think I’m boring and stupid sometimes. Lack of confidence also makes me indecisive: I spend days trying to make up my mind what to do about quite simple things. Unlike my friend I’m disorganized and sometimes absent-minded. I’m hardworking too especially when I’m doing something I’m interested in. But if you compare Olga and me, my friend is more mature for her age physically, emotionally, intellectually.

We both like reading fiction, exploring the city, its streets, churches and museums. We spend much time together, help each other to do our homework, go to the cinema, walk in the park, exchange books.

I respect my friend for her strong will, cheerful and kind character, her intellect and modesty. She is always full of ideas and knows what and how to do. It’s very pleasant to be with her around.

Some people have a lot of friends while others don’t make friends easily. There are people who remain life-long friends and there are people whose friendships never last very long.

In my opinion a real friend is a person whom you trust, who is “a friend in need” and who never lets you down. I am sociable by nature and make friends easily but only two or three of my friends are really close to me. Friendship is a very important thing in people’s lives. It is so nice to have a person you can rely on. Close friends usually have similar ideas and beliefs. They understand, respect and trust each other. Your best friend always helps you when you have problems or troubles. But we must also think how to keep friendship going because good friends are easier lost than found.

**QUESTIONS**

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1. Have you got many friends among your classmates?
2. What is your parents` attitude to your friends?
3. How much time do you spend with your friend?
4. What is your friend going to be?
5. Does your friend have any bad habits?