

IELTS Relationships Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you see your friends very often?

Louisa: Yes ... we meet up most weekends ... we all **get on really well** and **have a lot in common** so we're always happy doing the same things and going to the same places.

Examiner: What do you like about your close friends?

Anna: I think we **enjoy each other's company** ... we **see eye-to-eye on** most things so we rarely **fall out with** each other.

Examiner: Have you known each other long?

Amy: Most of them yes ... although my closest friend Carrie ... we **struck up a relationship** at college and **got on like a house on fire** ... but yes ... my other friendships **go back years** to when we were at school.

Part 2-style task

Describe a person you are very close to. You should say:

- who this person is
- when you met them
- where you met them

and say what it is about them you like so much.

Reiko: I'd like to talk about my boyfriend ... Jose ... we **got to know** each other at University almost 4 years ago ... we were in the same department ... initially we were **just good friends** and used to go out in a group with our other friends ... when Jose went back to Spain for the holidays we would **keep in touch with** each other ... then one year he invited me to come to Spain with him ... and that's when we **fell for** each other I think ... so you couldn't really say it was **love at first sight** as it had been over a year since we'd met ... but we really **hit it off** and by the time we got back to university in September we were able to tell all our friends that we were **in a relationship** ... what do I like about Jose ... well he's very kind ... very funny ... and very supportive ... and we're really **well matched** in our interests ... he hasn't **popped the question** yet though ... we've talked about getting married and I think we're both ready **to settle down** and have children ... we'll just have to wait and see ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Do you think marriage is still as important as ever?

Cristine: Yes ... it certainly is in my country ... I think the problem for some people is a lack of commitment ... all relationships **have their ups and downs** ... but some people prefer to **break up** rather than **working at** the relationship.

Examiner: What do you think is the ideal time to get married?

Terry: Personally ... I think you should wait until you've found yourself first ... decided if you

want a career ... perhaps do some travelling ... you should do this before **tying the knot** ... although if you **fall head over heels in love** plans like these can easily be forgotten.

Examiner: Is it important to keep in contact with our friends when we're in a relationship?

Maria: Absolutely ... it's so easy to **drift apart** from your friends when you **fall in love** ... but I think both partners should try not **to lose touch with** their friends ... that's the best way to have a **healthy relationship** with your partner.

Definitions

- **to break up**: to end a romantic relationship
- **to drift apart**: to become less close to someone
- **to enjoy someone's company**: to like spending time with someone
- **to fall for**: to fall in love
- **to fall head over heels in love**: to start to love someone a lot
- **to fall out with**: to have a disagreement and stop being friends
- **to get on like a house on fire**: to like someone's company very much indeed
- **to get on well with**: to understand someone and enjoy similar interests
- **to get to know**: to begin to know someone
- **to go back years**: to have known someone for a long time
- **to have a lot in common**: to share similar interests
- **to have ups and downs**: to have good and bad times
- **a healthy relationship**: a good, positive relationship
- **to hit it off**: to quickly become good friends with
- **to be in a relationship**: to be romantically involved with someone
- **to be just good friends**: to not be romantically involved
- **to keep in touch with**: to keep in contact with
- **to lose touch with**: to not see or hear from someone any longer
- **love at first sight**: to fall in love immediately you meet someone
- **to pop the question**: to ask someone to marry you
- **to see eye to eye**: to agree on a subject
- **to settle down**: to give up the single life and start a family
- **to strike up a relationship**: to begin a friendship
- **to tie the knot**: to get married
- **to be well matched**: to be similar to
- **to work at a relationship**: to try to maintain a positive relationship with someone

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Friends

- **close friend**: a very good friend.
- **enjoy each other's company**: to like spending time with each other. *Steve and Noah are always together, they definitely enjoy each others company.*
- **fair-weather friend**: someone who is your friend only when you are cheerful and successful. *A lot of John's friends turned out to be fair-*

weather friends. They were with him when he was rich and left him when he went bankrupt.

- **friends are like second family:** that is to say your friends love you and make you feel comfortable.
- **get in touch with somebody:** to contact somebody. *I plan to get in touch with my friends when I return home.*
- **near and dear to someone:** very important to someone. *Her parents are the only people who are near and dear to her.*
- **shoulder to cry on:** someone who is always ready to listen to your problems. *I'm so glad my boyfriend is so kind and sympathetic, it's good to always have a shoulder to cry on.*
- **to be through thick and thin:** to have some good times and difficult times together. *Your parents are married for 15 years, they must have been through thick and thin together.*
- **to be well-matched:** to be similar to somebody in interests. *They are well-matched.*
- **to break up:** to end a relationship. *It is hard to believe that Jacob and Sarah broke up. They were dating since high school.*
- **to drift apart:** to become less close to someone. *As years went by, school friends drifted apart.*
- **to fall for someone (to fall in love with someone):** to start loving somebody. *They were childhood friends, and he fell for her!*
- **to fall out with:** to quarrel, to have a conflict. *He left the party after falling out with his girlfriend.*
- **to get on like a house on fire:** people get on like a house on fire when they like each other's company and become friends very quickly. *I like my new roommate! We have a lot of same interests and get on like a house on fire.*
- **to get on well with somebody:** to have a good relationship with somebody. *I'm an outgoing person and I easily get on well with new people.*
- **to get to know someone:** to become acquainted with someone. *I thought Jenna was selfish until I got to know her and understood her real character.*
- **to have a lot in common:** to have similar interests.
- **to have friends in high places:** to have friends in powerful positions in business or government. *Joe owes his fast career growth to his friends in high places.*
- **to hit it off with somebody:** to quickly become close friends with somebody. *I could not imagine that Laura will hit it off with Dylan! They are so different.*
- **to keep in touch with someone:** to maintain contact with someone. *I keep in touch with my friends from high school, although we graduated five years ago.*
- **to lose touch with someone:** to lose contact with someone. *I lost touch with Mary since she moved to Canada.*
- **to see eye to eye:** to agree. *I think it's better to live in a big city, but my brother doesn't see eye to eye with me about it.*

- **to strike up (a conversation, a relationship)**: to start. *I feel awkward when I strike up a conversation with unknown people.*
- **ups and downs**: a mixture of good and bad things that happen. *We're friends for almost 30 years! Surely we've had our ups and downs.*