

Topic: Human Relationships

Let's get started...

Before you begin discussing today's topic, take a few moments to think about your best friend. Share some information about your friend with your group.

- How long have you known your friend?
- How did you meet him/her?
- What makes your friend so special to you?

New words and Idioms:

Human, platonic, romantic, familial, gender, honesty, truthfulness, trust, white lie, generation, generation gap, arranged marriage, long-distance relationship, stressful, approve of, disapprove of, etc.

Background:

There are many kinds of human relationships: friendship or platonic relationships, romantic relationships, familial relationships, professional relationships, etc. Each kind of relationship has a different set of rules and expectations depending on many differences such as cultural differences, gender differences or age differences. Today we will talk about some of the rules and expectations that you have for different kinds of human relationships.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Friendship is the most important relationship. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

Do you think it is possible to have a best friend of the opposite sex without becoming romantically involved?

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

In relationships, many people value honesty and truthfulness.

What is the definition of honesty? What do we mean when we say a person is honest? Is honesty important?

How can you be honest and not hurt someone?

Is it ever all right to give only a partial truth? If so, when?

What is truthfulness? What do we mean when we say that a person is truthful? Is it important to be truthful?

How do you know when to trust someone?

How are your friendships different now than they were when you were a child?

How do you keep in touch with your long-distance friends?

How do you maintain a good friendship? What factors may result in the breakdown of a good friendship?

What makes friends different from family?

What qualities do you think are important in a friend?

Do you have any friends from a different generation than you? Is it common to have friendships across generations? What are the advantages and disadvantages of these types of friendships.

Do you think it is better to be single or to be married?

Do you think it is okay for a couple to live together before getting married? Why or Why not?

Do you know anyone who has had an arranged marriage? Do you think arranged marriages are a good idea? Why or why not?

Do you think marriage/dating is stressful for women? How about for men?

Have your parents or friends ever disapproved of any of your relationships?

If your parents did not approve of a person you loved and wanted to marry, would that be a difficult situation for you? Why or why not?

Are young people generally more selfish than their parents and grandparents? Does age make you more aware of and caring for others?

Are there many things that the old can teach the young? What things were you taught by your older family members? How have they been useful to you in your life?

Is there such a thing as a perfect relationship for you? What would it be like?