

**Talk Time Topic: Friends**

**Let's get started...**

Think about a time when you made a new friend. Where did you meet? How did you meet? What did you talk about? Did you make other friends at the same time, or just one new friend? How did you decide to meet again?

**Background:**

Friends are important for everyone. Without friends, life would be lonely and boring! There are many kinds of friends - old friends, new friends, friends at work, classmates, family friends, neighbors, and former friends. In a good friendship, friends communicate and spend time with each other. People are usually friends with other people who share similar hobbies and values, but making friends with people who are different lets us learn about other lifestyles and cultures.



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

Think about your “oldest friend” (the friend you have known for the longest time.)

What is his/her name?

Where did you meet?

How did you meet?

Where does he/she live now?

How often do you communicate? How do you communicate? (by letter, by phone, etc.)

What is your favorite thing to do together?

Has your friend ever done anything to make you mad?

**Share your partner's answers with the group.**



**Discussion Questions:**

In America, friends can be as important as family. In your native country, are friends as important as family? Why are friends so important?

What are some ways to make new friends?

How do people make new friends in your native country?

In your native country, if friends fight, what happens?

In America, girls and boys can be friends without having a romantic relationship. Is this true in your native country?

A first impression is the first feeling or thought that you have when meeting someone for the first time. Have you ever had a bad first impression of someone who later turned out to be a good friend?

When you meet someone for the first time, what do you usually notice about them? (For example, their smile, clothes, behavior, etc.)

What do friends usually do together in your native country? What is your favorite thing to do with friends?

What is something you would never tell a friend? What is something you would always tell a friend?

Why do some people want a lot of friends, and other people only want a few friends?

How does friendship change when you get older?

Do you have more friends now than you did ten years ago?

What is the nicest thing a friend has done for you? What is the nicest thing you have done for a friend?

How often do you communicate with your friends?

**New words and Idioms:**

lonely, boring, classmates, neighbors, former, friendship, communicate, to spend time with, usually, hobbies, values, lifestyles, cultures, fight, romantic relationship, first impression, notice, behavior