

**B1.II**  
**Unit 6**

**Exercise 1**

**Read the text and choose the best answer for each question.**

**Best of friends**

Who needs friends? According to most psychologists we all do, particularly nowadays when so many other aspects of modern life are changing. It seems that having friends keeps us both healthy and happy.

The number of TV series about groups of friends shows just how vital friendship is to us. Psychologist Dorothy Rowe says that many of us now turn to our friends, instead of our families, for advice, comfort and security. One woman she interviewed even told her that if she had to choose between her husband and her friend, she would choose her friend. Since our friends mean so much to us, it is not surprising that the happiest marriages are also friendships. 'Once the romantic stage of a relationship has passed, it is friendship that holds people together', says Rowe. If the couple does not make the transition, they will either split up or stay together and seek friendship with others.

But is friendship equally important to women and men? According to author Rhonda Pritchard, women are more likely than men to have close friends. 'You tell a friend things that you'd never tell a partner', says one woman she interviewed. 'Friends just accept you as you are.'

For men, friendship is usually based on doing things together rather than the intimate conversations that are typical of women friends. Men share time and activities like building a fence or a business, running, riding a bike, fishing or watching football, but they don't often share their feelings. While many women find their relationships with a husband or boyfriend not enough, many men say that their partner is their best friend. Even women who are very happily married are likely to become depressed without a close friend and can even find the break-up of an intimate friendship as painful as the end of a marriage.

People often say that there have been times when a close friend has not only saved their sanity but their lives. There is, in fact, more and more evidence that having friends protects us against illness and

depression. The uninhibited laughter that is typical of many friendships reduces the effects of stress and helps the immune system work properly.

Lasting friendships can provide a lot of the same support that families provided in the past, but the ideal situation is to have your family there for you as well. For most people, this is still very important. Friendships and family relationships can both change, but a friend will not take you into account when making really important decisions in the same way that a family member will.

**1. What did the woman who was interviewed by Dorothy Rowe say?**

- A. She had to choose between her friend and her husband.
- B. She thinks her husband means less to her than her friend.
- C. She thinks her friend means less to her than her husband.
- D. Her husband broke up with her because of her friend.

**2. Why do some couples look for friends outside their relationships?**

- A. Because they are not in love with their partners.
- B. Because they believe friendship is more important than their marriage.
- C. Because they think romance is more important than friendship.
- D. Because they do not get what they need from their partners.

**3. According to the text, what is the main difference between men's and women's friendships?**

- A. Men don't spend as much time talking about their emotions.
- B. Women prefer to spend time doing things with their friends.
- C. Men talk to their friends about work and sport.

D. Women don't spend as much time talking about their emotions.

**4. How do some women react when a friendship ends?**

A. They start looking for new friends.

B. They decide never to trust a friend again

C. They focus more on their spouses.

D. It affects them as much as getting a divorce would.

**5. How does friendship help us physically and mentally?**

A. There is no evidence that it does.

B. It can make us depressed but it doesn't make us ill

C. It keeps us happy but it doesn't keep us healthy.

D. We are more likely to stay physically and mentally healthy.

**Exercise 2**

**Vocabulary: Complete the sentences with the missing words.**

- a crush on
- were widowed
- spouse
- fiancé
- divorce
- fiancée
- split up
- on a date
- dumped
- broke up
- cheated on

1. The girl who is dressed in white is my .....
2. Kate always shows off the big diamond ring she got from her .....
3. My job offers medical and dental benefits for myself, my ..... and my children.
4. He .....his girlfriend because she ..... on him with someone else.
5. Thousands of women ..... by the war.
6. I didn't want to ..... with Mary. She's the one who ..... with me.
7. The children were greatly affected by their parents' .....
8. John has had a ..... on Mary ever since they were in high school.
9. He asked his friend ..... and she accepted.

### Exercise 3

#### Match each idiom with its definition:

1. To be head over heels (in love) .....
2. To hit it off .....
3. To fall in/out of love .....
4. To fall for somebody (hard) .....
5. To have chemistry .....
6. To be on the rocks .....
7. To only have eyes for someone .....
8. To go out with someone/ask someone out .....

- a. To get along very well with someone.
- b. To start/stop loving someone.
- c. To experience a special connection with someone, usually with a mutual attraction.
- d. To spend time exclusively with one partner/to ask someone to go on a date with you.
- e. To like one person and no one else.
- f. To love someone strongly and usually quickly.
- g. To fall completely in love with someone.
- h. To be in a difficult moment in your relationship with a partner.

#### Exercise 4

##### Choose the correct answer

1. .... the high price, many people buy these jeans  
a. On the one hand      b. Despite      c. Although
  
2. Bill is rather clever,.....his brother is just average.  
a. in spite of      b. on the other hand      c. whereas
  
3. "Wasn't the concert last night terrific?"  
"..... , I found it quite boring"  
a. However      b. Eventhough      c. On the contrary
  
4. It was hot and humid. ...., they really enjoyed their holiday.  
a. However      b. In spite of the fact that      c. Whereas
  
5. Forests are important to our planet, .....people are destroying forests all over the world.  
a. yet      b. on the contrary      c. on the one hand
  
6. .... there are laws against pollution, cars and factories continue to pollute the air.  
a. However      b. Although      c. Despite
  
7. We like travelling. ...., travelling can be quite expensive  
a. In spite of      b. While      c. However
  
8. I can't speak Japanese. ...., I managed on my trip to Tokyo.  
a. Nevertheless      b. Whereas      c. Even though

**ADDING INFORMATION AND GIVING EXAMPLES**

**Exercise 5**

**Choose the correct answer**

1. Fruits provide us with vitamins, ..... oranges have lots of vitamin C.  
a. moreover    b. for example    c. in addition to
  
2. Some opera singers,..... Pavarotti and Domingo, are well known even to people who don't go to the opera.  
a. besides    b. as well as    c. such as
  
3. All the students enjoyed the mountain climb ..... Brian, who fell and injured his ankle.  
a. except for    b. furthermore    c. such as
  
4. Volleyball is my favourite sport. ...., I also enjoy tennis.  
a. For example    b. In addition    c. In addition to
  
5. .... being a lawyer, John Grisham is also an author.  
a. In addition to    b. Such as    c. Moreover
  
6. What other languages do you know ..... English and Spanish?  
a. apart from    b. for example    c. beside
  
7. Tv offers a wide variety of programmes,..... news, sport and music.  
a. for instance    b. such    c. besides
  
8. It's often quicker to travel by train than by car or bus. .... , it's usually cheaper too.  
a. In addition to    b. For example    c. Besides