

# 1 Best Friends

## 1 Synopsis

Various people talk about their best friends. They talk about how they met, for example, at high school, at a nightclub, or online. Then, they talk about their best friends' annoying habits. Some of the friends are obsessive about cleaning, have noisy eating habits, or are bossy. Some are perfect! The interviewer asks the people if they have ever had an argument with their best friend. Finally, the people list the qualities or traits that make a good friend. These include being able to talk together, honesty, loyalty, an ability to listen, and trust.

**Length of video:** 4:06min

## 2 Target Language

**Grammar:** tense review; direct questions

**Vocabulary:** personality adjectives

**Language points:** describing annoying habits: *She likes to make fun of me. He can be very bossy.*

## 3 Procedural Notes

### A Before you watch

**1 Individuals.** Have a student read aloud the adjectives. If necessary, explain that "bratty" is someone who behaves impolitely and acts like a spoiled child. Have students write the personality adjectives under the correct headings. Let them use dictionaries if available.

**As a class.** Draw the chart on the board. Check answers with the class, calling on students to tell you where the words belong. As you do this, review pronunciation and meaning.

**Answer key:**

**positive:** considerate diplomatic  
down-to-earth supportive loyal perfect  
**negative:** bossy bratty obsessive jealous

**2 In pairs.** Have students work together to brainstorm more personality adjectives and add them to the chart. Encourage them to discuss the meaning of the adjectives. Have them think of adjectives which apply to them, or to people they know. Finally, have students share their ideas with the class.

**Suggested answers:**

**positive:** kind friendly sociable honest funny  
**negative:** rude mean selfish untrustworthy

### B While you watch

**1 Individuals.** Ask students to cover the answers. Have them read the questions and predict possible answers. Then, have students uncover the answers and match them to the questions.

**As a class.** Have some students read their predictions aloud. Tell students that they are going to see the questions and hear the answers in the video, so they need to listen and find out if their predictions were correct. Play the video. Repeat if necessary, telling the class to raise their hand when they hear one of the answers to the exercise. Finally, check answers with the class.

**Answer key:** 1 c 2 a 3 e 4 d 5 b

**2 Individuals.** Have students look at the statements. Answer any vocabulary questions. Play the video, stopping after each section to give students time to do the exercise. Repeat the video if necessary, telling the class to raise their hand when they hear one of the statements in the exercise. Emphasize that there are two statements for each person.

**As a class.** Check answers by having students read aloud the quotation for each of the people. Encourage them to share any similar experiences or views on friendship.

**Answer key:** 1 c, h 2 d, e 3 a, f 4 b, g

### C After you watch

**Individuals.** Give students time to write answers to each question. They can use language and ideas from the video in addition to their own ideas. Encourage them to write more than just one sentence for each question.

**In pairs.** Have students take turns interviewing each other. Encourage them to practice the interview several times until they can ask and answer the questions smoothly.

**As a class.** Have pairs come to the front of the class and perform their interviews as if they were being filmed. Then, have the class list common answers to the questions, and comment on any answers that surprised them.



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## D Language points

**Individuals.** Give students time to complete each sentence with the correct phrase. Tell them to look for clues such as pronouns, third person verb endings, *-ing* forms, and infinitives. Check answers as a class.

### Answer key:

- 1 repeating the same thing
- 2 make fun of me
- 3 makes noises with her mouth
- 4 very bossy

## 4 Video Script

**Man 1:** Yes, I have a best friend. His name is Christopher.

**Man 2:** His name is Antonio.

**Woman 1:** His name is Sandy.

**Woman 2:** My best friend is my boyfriend. His name's Steve.

**Man 3:** It's my wife, Minnie.

**Man 4:** We do have a very good relationship, I would say. You know, I'm glad that she's my friend.

**Man 5:** I became my own best friend through the betrayal of other friends.

**Man 6:** She's a VP at a bank and she's really down-to-earth. A good person and somebody that I can talk to.

**Woman 3:** One of my best friends is a girl, Ashley, she was my roommate all through college. Actually I just got back today from going on a two-week vacation with her.

**Man 1:** He's just a cool kid.

**Man 2:** He's my business partner and co-author, and we've been writing together for about five years now.

**Woman 1:** I can always count on him. He's loving and supportive.

**Woman 4:** She's nice people to hang around with, talk to about anything. Haven't seen her in a while, I kind of miss her.

**Woman 5:** Not only is she a good friend, she's like an older sister to me.

**Man 7:** She is like the younger sister that I never had.

**Woman 4:** We met in junior high school.

If you have time, have students work in pairs and write some sentences about their friends' annoying habits. Encourage them to use a variety of structures, e.g., *He / she is always + verb-ing; I hate it when he / she + simple present verb*. Model a few examples of your own if necessary. Have pairs report back to the class.

## E Your viewpoint

**In groups.** Read the questions aloud and check that everybody understands them. Put students into small groups and have them discuss the questions. While groups are working, circulate and help with vocabulary. Finish off with a class discussion.

**Man 6:** Actually, at a wedding.

**Woman 3:** Actually, she dated my brother a couple of times, so I met her when she went out with my brother, it didn't really work out between them, but we became friends in the meantime.

**Man 3:** We met in the Lincoln Center at the outdoor dancing event that they have there.

**Woman 1:** We met in a nightclub.

**Man 3:** I think it was a salsa night.

**Woman 6:** It was a salsa night, yes.

**Man 4:** We met online.

**Woman 7:** We met online.

**Man 4:** The Internet is not a bad place, you just have to be very careful where you use it.

**Woman 7:** Exactly.

**Man 4:** Annoying habits? She likes to make fun of me. She always, you know ... Like, if I say anything, she always has a joke or a witty comment.

**Man 3:** She is obsessive, cleaning ... and when she's mad, she runs the vacuum cleaner, she knows I can't stand the noise.

**Woman 8:** She smokes, that's a bad habit.

**Man 3:** Every ashtray must be clean at all times.

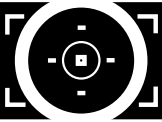
**Woman 4:** Annoying habits? Maybe when she's chewing her food, that's it.

**Man 3:** Every garbage can must be emptied.

**Woman 4:** She makes noises with her mouth.

**Man 3:** Every speck on the carpet must be picked up.

**Man 6:** Sometimes she doesn't let her etiquette show.



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**Woman 3:** She has annoying habits with food. She insists on eating fast food all the time, but worse than that, she insists that I eat the fast food with her all the time. She's really persuasive and she can be really bratty when she doesn't get her way.

**Woman 1:** He can be very bossy.

**Man 1:** He'll keep repeating the same thing over and over again, like, like, you didn't hear it the first time.

**Man 8:** She's perfect.

**Man 5:** Are you kidding? Doesn't that come along with the program? Of course. Arguments or disagreements, I believe, bring people closer, or, I believe it tears them apart.

**Woman 4:** We've never had an argument.

**Woman 5:** We had a disagreement, she thought I ... I said something or meant something and I didn't, and actually, it sort of interfered with the relationship.

**Woman 3:** Having the same sense of humor makes a good friend, thinking the same things

are cool, thinking the same things are funny, being able to talk to each other and communicate on the same levels.

**Woman 2:** I think honesty and accountability, dependability, having fun.

**Man 6:** Somebody who's honest with you and tells you things that you don't want to hear, but can put them in a diplomatic way so that they're not hurting.

**Man 5:** Loyalty. What I believe makes a good friend is loyalty.

**Woman 4:** A person you can talk to with any problems that you have.

**Woman 5:** You're always willing to listen, you take time to listen to them ... What's important to them is important to you.

**Man 3:** The ability for each one to listen to each other without judgment.

**Woman 4:** A person you can trust, no matter what happens, what goes down.

**Man 1:** Someone that's loyal to you and trustworthy. When you hurt, they hurt.