

# Unit 8 Reading Worksheet 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1 Read the title, look at the photos and tick (✓) the words you might find in the article.

friendship	<input type="checkbox"/>	different	<input type="checkbox"/>	relationship	<input type="checkbox"/>
false	<input type="checkbox"/>	difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	diverse	<input type="checkbox"/>
learn	<input type="checkbox"/>	awful	<input type="checkbox"/>	research	<input type="checkbox"/>

## How Do We Choose Our Friends?

‘F’riends are the family you choose’ is a **cliché** we hear too often, but it still means a lot to many of us. Unlike family, we can decide who to keep in our group of friends and who to call our ‘besties’ (best friends) or ‘BFFs’ (Best Friends Forever). But how does friendship happen?

In large groups of people, we tend to **gravitate** to those who think like we do, who like the same things we do, who share our lifestyle and even to people who look like us! In a diverse environment, for example, an international school, people from the same countries or culture will tend to spend more time together. Similarities help us feel safe and comfortable with the people around us.



However, new studies suggest that when groups are smaller and less diverse, people are **bound to** hang out with those who are different. Friendships born from situations like this will become stronger than those that are formed between people who are too similar.

Social psychologist Angela Bahns of Wellesley College, found that when a pair of friends show more differences in attitudes, values and behaviours, the **bond** they form is closer and the relationship lasts longer.

This might be due to the fact that we challenge ourselves more when we

meet someone who is unlike us and we learn to see things from a totally different **perspective**. If, let’s say, we never enjoyed fishing but our friend does, we are more open to learn to understand the bright side of fishing. We might still dislike it, but learning from a friend makes the relationship more exciting and, perhaps, more meaningful.

Next time, you see your best friend look at him or her closely, talk about how similar or different you are and maybe you can discover something new about each other!



### Glossary

**cliché:** a (too) common saying or phrase

**gravitate:** to move towards (something or someone) without noticing

**(be) bound to:** to be destined, when something is inevitable

**bond:** connection, relationship

**perspective:** point of view

2 Read again and match the sentence halves.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. It’s common to say that friends                 | a. to feel more relaxed.               |
| 2. In big groups, individuals will                 | b. get together with people like them. |
| 3. We normally look for similarities               | c. are like family.                    |
| 4. When two friends are very different, they might | d. have a superficial relationship.    |
| 5. When two friends are too similar, they might    | e. develop a stronger relationship.    |



3 Stop and Think! What have you and your best friend got in common? How are you different? What can you learn from each other?