

RELATIONSHIPS



SAYINGS

Look at these English sayings about relationships. What do they mean? Do you agree with them?

- Blood is thicker than water
- A friend in need is a friend indeed
- Like father, like son
- No man is an island

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Is the way we relate to others changing? How? (Think about romantic relationships, friendships, parent-child relationships, etc.)
- Has the internet revolutionised the way we interact? If so, is this positive or negative? Why?

What type of friend or person is each person talking about? Match each sentence with type of friendship:

acquaintance fair-weather friend fellow student flatmate girlfriend mutual friend old friend travel companion true friend workmate

1 We're not close friends – we're just studying French at the same evening class.

2 I live with Sarah, but each of us has our own group of friends that we hang out with.

3 Olivia and I went on a trip to Peru together ten years ago and we've kept up with each other ever since.

4 I wouldn't say we were friends really. We've met a couple of times at parties.

5 Oh, do you know Tom? He's a good friend of mine too. We should all meet up some time.

6 Jacob always hangs around when he's bored, but he never comes round when he's got something better to do.

7 Kate has always stood by me in times of difficulty. If ever I'm in trouble, I know I can rely on her for help.

8 Colin and I have been teaching at the same school for years. We get on very well, even though we never really see each other socially. I think I've been round to his house once.

9 Barney and I have known each other since we were at school. It doesn't matter if we haven't seen each other for a while; we just seem to pick up where we left off.

10 Jessica and I are going to go for a medieval-style wedding. Themed weddings are becoming very fashionable.

Find phrasal verbs in these sentences. What does each one mean? In pairs, choose three and write a sentence illustrating its meaning.

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FRIENDSHIP: DISCUSS IN SMALL GROUPS

Think about three of your friends. What kind of friend are they?

**acquaintance fair-weather friend fellow student flatmate
girlfriend mutual friend old friend travel companion true friend
workmate**

Think also about how often you see these people and what things you do together. Discuss if your friendships are similar in any way.

- ! Try to use the phrasal verbs.

FAMILY: DOES FAMILY SHAPE YOU?

Do you **get along** with your brothers and sisters?
Has it always been that way?

Would you say you are a close family? How much time do you spend with family:

- out of a sense of duty?
- because you choose to?

How conscious are you of your family's history?

Is there something that **runs in your family**?
(examples: a quality, skill, interest, problem, disease) Have you inherited it?

Is there someone who **wears the pants** in your family? How important is it to have this person's approval?

Is there someone in the family you **look up to**?
Why?

Has your family influenced the career path that you have chosen? Did you want to **follow in their footsteps**?

When seeking advice, are you more likely to turn to friends or family?

How important is it to you that your family approves of your partner?

Would you say your family members **see eye to eye** about:

- money?
- bringing up children?

Is there a **black sheep** in your family. Who is it? What makes this person the **black sheep**?

Are you similar to your parents? Do people think you're **the spitting image of** them? Do people think you're **a chip off the old block**?

LOVE RELATIONSHIPS

- Is finding a partner important to you? Do you think society influences the importance we give to love, dating or marriage?
- What do you look for in a partner?
- What are **deal-breakers** for you? (=things you wouldn't tolerate in a partner)
- Is it better to be in a relationship or to be single?

TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS

When do you think a relationship isn't healthy?

What are "warning signs"?

Do you know any cases of toxic relationships?

What kind of behaviour do you think shows a relationship is healthy?

Video watching: Write down the signs of unhealthy relationships and make note of vocabulary used to describe them.

ARE YOU GOOD AT GIVING ADVICE?

- You should...
- I suggest...
- Why don't...
- If I were you...
- How about...
- My advice would be...
- Have you thought...

[/r/relationships](#) and
[/r/dating_advice](#)

Let's read some posts by people looking for advice. What would you suggest?

Discuss in small groups and write something you would post as a comment.

Do I choose my relationship or my career?

I (32m) have been offered the position I have been trying to get for years, but it would require me to move to Houston and I will be travelling a lot. I was hoping that I could stay based out of NYC, but it didn't turn out that way. The move is temporary, but I will likely be there for a few years, but maybe less. Career wise, this job is an amazing opportunity and the experience is unparalleled. Plus it is a pretty substantial raise.

My gf(28f) of 3 years just doesn't think she wants to be in a relationship with someone who travels a lot, and I can understand that. She may leave me if I take this job. Someone who had the same job told me to expect to sleep at home less than half of the time. So being in a new city, with no friends, and a boyfriend who isn't around much sounds pretty overwhelming to me, so I complexly understand her apprehensions, as sad as it makes me.

Do I choose my career and financial stability or my relationship and start looking harder for a new job?

Boyfriend of 6 years (M25) hates my (f23) family and I don't like his.

Let me start by saying that our parents are very different. His are very comfortable openly smoking weed in and around the house with their kids (both in their late 20s) which is pretty cool. However his mom is depressed and unemployed and his father is a retired self entitled jerk who makes the mom cry regularly. His house is kinda gross with mad bugs all over. My family isn't against weed, they just don't want me to smoke in the house, backyard is fine. They're both working class people and have a successful marriage. They're headstrong and speak their minds. My mom and dad both work very hard to maintain their lives.

His dad has just invited himself to OUR vacation and my bf expects me to accept him despite the fact that he's a sexist jerk. And my bf can't even come into my house when picking me up because he says he can't be himself there.

I don't know what to do. I feel I am always the one stepping up to spend time with my bf despite him living with a toxic family when he can't be bothered to reciprocate.

Inappropriate workplace conversations, or am I just being sensitive?

I'm a 24yo guy who's been employed full time for nearly six months. At my first serious full time job, I'm having trouble navigating the relationship with my co-workers who are quite friendly with each other and often discuss personal matters in the office.

One of them even mentioned she has a female cousin who's single and proceeded to show me her photos, asking me if she was my type. I believe their intentions were good, but honestly I felt quite uncomfortable because for one, I'm not even into women and don't know what to comment exactly when ambushed with such a question, and secondly, I'm taken but don't care to discuss such things in a professional setting. Therefore I just responded by awkwardly laughing and telling them I'm not looking.

So I'm confused as to whether I'm uncomfortable with these private discussions because I'm new to the environment, or if they could actually be considered inappropriate for a professional setting?

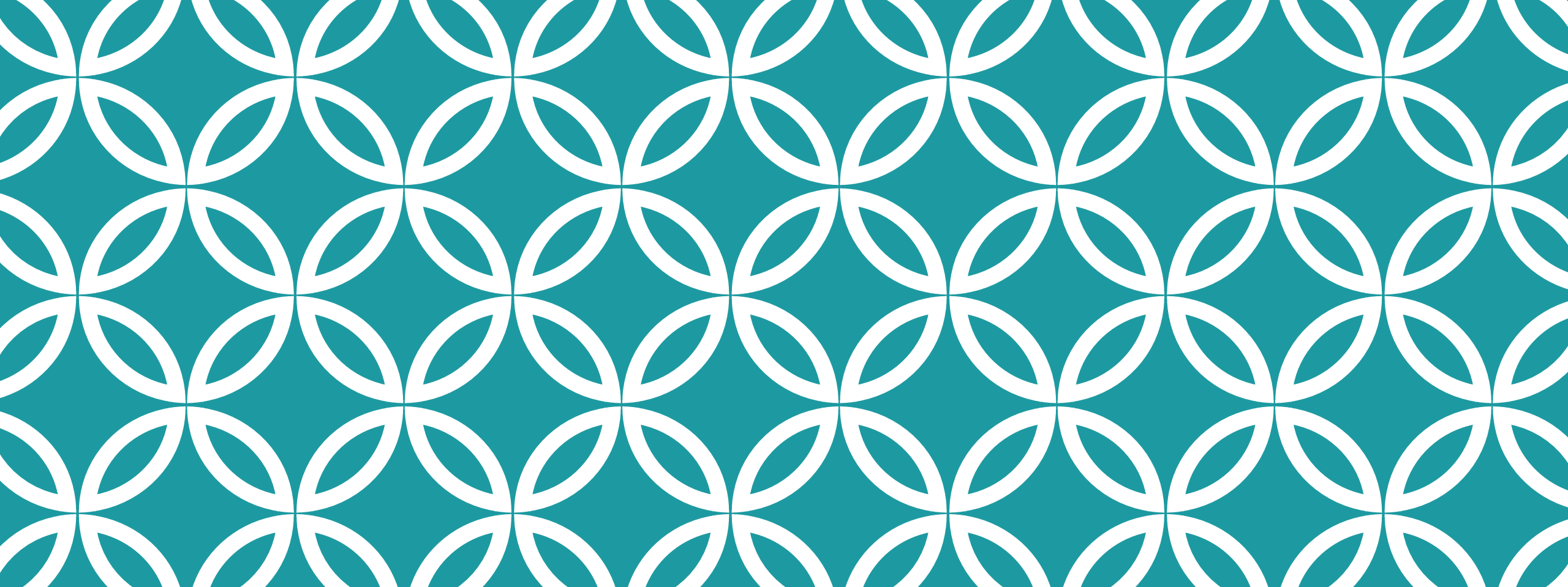
My [26f] boyfriend [27m] told our best friend [26f] that he was in love with her.

I've been with bf for almost 8 years now, and met best friend about a month before I met him and we've been amazing friends ever since. Bf and best friend are really good friends too. I love my bf with all of my heart and always will.

It was my friend's birthday so we had a lot to drink in my house last night and we were up pretty late. I went to bed after a while and left them up.

In the morning, my best friend told me that my bf said he was in love with her when he was drunk. I confronted him and he admitted he still loves me more than anything, but that he's fallen for her too from all the time we all spend together. She has absolutely no romantic feelings towards him.

I am just a mess and don't know what to do or think. Our 8 year anniversary is this Friday and my head is all over the place and I'm just fried. What should I do?



CREATE A SITUATION FOR THE OTHERS TO GIVE ADVICE ON.

Be creative.
Include as much detail as possible.
It can be about any kind of
relationship.

