Relationships: friends forever

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each precise friendship term with its definition.

1 confidant ____	**a** a friendship of mutual understanding felt from the start
2 kindred spirit ____	**b** someone in whom you confide personal matters
3 rapport ____	**c** a friendly, easy relationship between people
4 camaraderie ____	**d** a shared sense of friendly team spirit
5 falling-out ____	**e** a disagreement that damages a friendship
6 estranged ____	**f** no longer close or in contact, often after conflict
7 solidarity ____	**g** unity and mutual support within a group
8 mutual respect ____	**h** respect that both people feel for each other equally
9 reconcile ____	**i** to restore a friendship after a disagreement
10 fair-weather friend ____	**j** someone who is only friendly when things are going well

2 Choose the word with the most suitable connotation.

1 For a friendship of instant, deep connection: kindred spirit / acquaintance.

2 For a critical description of a disloyal friend: fair-weather friend / confidant.

3 For a warm, easy relationship: rapport / rivalry.

4 For team spirit among close friends: camaraderie / competition.

5 For restoring a broken friendship: reconcile / abandon.

6 For someone you trust with secrets: confidant / stranger.

7 For a friendship that has ended in conflict: estranged / inseparable.

8 For equal appreciation between friends: mutual respect / one-sided admiration.

3 Complete the friendship collocations with one word.

1 _____ spirit (= instant connection)

2 _____ friend (= trusted with secrets)

3 _____ out (= a disagreement that damages a friendship)

4 _____ apart (= gradually lose closeness)

5 _____ respect (= equal appreciation)

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6 _____ friend (= only loyal when convenient)

7 build _____ (= develop an easy, warm relationship)

8 _____ ties (= restore a broken connection)

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4 Complete the case notes with words and phrases from the box.

camaraderie | confidant | estranged | falling-out | kindred spirit | mutual respect | rapport | reconcile | reunited | solidarity

Case A: The two colleagues developed an immediate 1 _____ and quickly became 2 _____s, sharing personal news that they told no one else.
Case B: After a serious 3 _____, the former friends became 4 _____ for several years, avoiding each other completely.
Case C: The team showed real 5 _____ during the difficult project, supporting each other with genuine 6 _____.
Case D: Years later, the friends managed to 7 _____ their differences and were finally 8 _____ at a reunion, rebuilding a relationship based on 9 _____ and a sense that they had always been 10 _____s.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Why friendships change over time

Long-term friendships rarely stay static; they shift as people move, change careers or take on new responsibilities. A friendship that once relied on daily contact can survive on occasional messages, provided both people feel the connection is still valued. Difficulties arise when one person invests more effort than the other, which can create resentment even if it is never openly discussed. Experts suggest that occasional honest conversations about the friendship itself, rather than avoiding the subject, tend to prevent small frustrations from becoming a permanent falling-out.

1 Why do friendships rarely stay static? _____
2 What can allow a friendship to survive on less frequent contact? _____
3 What can cause resentment between friends? _____
4 Is this resentment always discussed openly? _____
5 What do experts recommend? _____
6 What can this recommendation prevent? _____

6 Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals. Do not change the meaning.

1 We felt an instant connection when we met. KINDRED _____
2 They stopped speaking after a serious argument. ESTRANGED _____
3 She is the person I tell everything to. CONFIDANT _____
4 The whole team supported each other closely. CAMARADERIE _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 120-150 word account of a friendship that changed over time - either growing stronger or fading. Explain what caused the change and how each person responded.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Control connotation carefully. [ ] Avoid unsupported assumptions.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Precise friendship terms

1 b 2 a 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

2 Connotation

1 kindred spirit 2 fair-weather friend 3 rapport 4 camaraderie 5 reconcile 6 confidant 7 estranged 8 mutual respect

3 Collocations

1 kindred 2 confidant/trusted 3 falling 4 drift 5 mutual 6 fair-weather 7 rapport 8 rebuild

4 Case notes

1 rapport 2 confidant 3 falling-out 4 estranged 5 solidarity 6 camaraderie 7 reconcile 8 reunited
9 mutual respect 10 kindred spirit

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Because people move, change careers or take on new responsibilities.
2 Both people still valuing the connection.
3 One person investing more effort than the other.
4 No, it is often not discussed openly.
5 Occasional honest conversations about the friendship itself.
6 Small frustrations becoming a permanent falling-out.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 We were kindred spirits when we met. 2 They became estranged after a serious argument.
3 She is my confidant. 4 The whole team showed real camaraderie.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check lexical precision, appropriate connotation and separation of fact from inference.