

## International Conversation Cafe

### Lifestyle Topic: Friendship

All of us need and want friends, both casual friends, and friends that truly know and accept us for who we are. Moving to a new location can be challenging. You might ask, how shall I meet friends? Where shall I find them? What are the expectations in friendship? How do I know when someone is truly my friend? These questions arise and are especially important when a new culture is involved. You might be in a new culture and or you might be meeting people from other cultures.

#### Let's get to know each other.

1. Tell about a good childhood friend you had in your growing-up years. How did you meet them? What kinds of things did you do together?
2. In your late teen years and early 20's, how did you meet your friends? How did you decide with whom to be friends?
3. As you have moved to a new country or university, what difficulties have you encountered to make friends? Tell about some things that have worked and experiences that have not gone well.

#### Cultural experiences with friendship

**Americans are like peaches; soft and enjoyable initially. But to really know, they are hard, like the peach pit. Hungarians are like coconuts. On the outside they are hard and difficult but once you crack the outer layer the inside is sweet and delicious. ~Anonymous**

*How do you think others would describe your friendship personality?*

#### Friendship advice

**Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity (difficulty) before it is entitled to the appellation (the name of 'friend') ~George Washington (1732 – 1799).**

*Washington suggests that going through a difficult time with a friend will either build your friendship or destroy it. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?*

*Tell a story about a friendship that was deepened because of a difficulty you endured together.*

**You can make more friends in two months by becoming more interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get people interested in you. ~Dale Carnegie**

*Dale Carnegie wrote a book called, How to Win Friends and Influence People.*

*What do you find interesting about other people?*

*Do conversations with others tire or energize you? Explain.*

**Do not protect yourself by a fence, but rather by your friends. ~Czech Proverb**

*What do you think this proverb is saying?*

*In what way do friends protect you?*

*How do you protect your friends?*

**My best friend is the man who in wishing me well wishes it for my sake. ~Aristotle**

*Restate the proverb in your own words.*

*How do we sometimes use friendship for our own profit?*

*Tell about someone who used your friendship to promote themselves.*

### **Friendship Observations**

**Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born. ~Anais Nin**

*What do you think the author means by this statement?*

*Have you ever met someone who opened up a new world for you? Explain.*

**We make our friends; we make our enemies, but God makes our next-door neighbor.**

**~ G.K. Chesterton**

*What do you think the author is telling us?*

*Tell about a pleasant neighbor and a difficult neighbor.*

*Sometimes we can be disappointed by someone we thought was a friend. How do you handle such disappointment?*

**The easiest kind of relationship for me is with ten thousand people. The hardest is with one.**

**~Joan Baez**

*Joan Baez is a well-known singer, songwriter, and political activist.*

*Why do you think she made this statement?*

*Do you agree with her perspective? Why or why not?*

### **Conclusion**

*What do you most value in a friendship?*

*What are some ways you contribute to a friendship?*