


# Language for ...

## dating and friendship

**Age:** Young adult / Adult 

**Level:** Upper-intermediate

**Length:** 45–60 minutes

**Language Focus:** key vocabulary for describing people and relationships

**Skills:** speaking, reading, listening


**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student, video (on onestopenglish or downloaded in advance of the lesson)

**Aims:** to provide students with language for describing friends and relationships

### What are red words?

Ninety per cent of the time, speakers of English use just 7,500 words in speech and writing. These words appear in the Macmillan Dictionary in red and are graded with stars. One-star words are frequent, two-star words are more frequent and three-star words are the most frequent. 'Language for' lessons are based on red words and encourage students to improve their English through communicative tasks using collocation and commonly used phrases.

- 1 As preparation for the lesson, ask students to think of a close friend or their partner (if they have one) and write a few short sentences to describe them. Tell them to think about describing their personality (e.g. adjectives such as *funny, friendly, generous, kind*) as well as their appearance, and the reasons why they like them.

 **Teaching tip:** Students could be invited to share their work on a class blog/website. Ask them to submit a photo so that as a class they create a 'gallery' of their friends and related descriptions which can later form a resource for the lesson.

- 2 Give a copy of the worksheet to each student (please see step 7, for a note on pairwork

exercise 3a). Start the lesson by dividing students into groups to brainstorm ideas for the warmer question: *What different ways are there to meet new people?* Have each group report back to the rest of the class and put together a whole class list. Which of these ways do students think is best? Encourage students to explain their choices and talk about their own experiences.

- 3 Explain to students that they are now going to watch a video in which four different people (Sam, Maitrayee, Patrick and Erica) talk about their partner or best friend, and how they first met them. Ask students to listen out for the various ways to meet people that the speakers mention and make a note of any ways they hadn't already thought of (NB: they will have to listen carefully to Maitrayee, as she speaks quite quickly and with a strong accent). Play the video and check answers as a class.
- 4 Explain that you're going to play the video again but this time students will have to listen carefully so that they can identify the correct speakers of the questions in exercise 2b. Give students a few seconds to read through the questions before playing the video a second time. Then ask them to complete the exercise and then check answers with a partner.
- 5 Ask students to read the questions in exercise 2c and circle the answers they think are correct. Play the video a final time. Do they now want to change any of their answers? Check the answers as a class.
- 6 Split students into small groups to briefly discuss the question in exercise 2d and have some groups report their answers to the class, including their own opinions about dating / internet dating.
- 7 Divide the students into pairs for exercise 3a, giving one the Student A material and the other the Student B material (either cut up this exercise

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in advance of the class, or ask students to fold the worksheet in half so they can only see their half of the profiles – A or B). Tell them to read the two profiles and then ask each other questions to complete the missing information (you may want to explain *pet hates* = *things you dislike very much*). Check answers. Then ask students to look at the profiles again and briefly discuss in their pairs whether they think the two people might get on with each other. Invite some of the pairs to share their conclusions and give reasons why or why not – what do/don't these people have in common? (See key for suggested answers.)

- 8** Exercise 3c highlights some words and expressions commonly used when talking about someone you have recently met or made friends with. Start the exercise by inviting four confident students to read the two dialogues to the rest of the class. You may wish to point out that, in spoken scenarios like these, *guy* is very often used in place of *man* and the expression *get talking* means *to start a conversation with someone you didn't know previously*. Then ask students to complete the exercise in pairs. Tell them not to use a dictionary straight away but to first complete any matches they think they know and to look at the surrounding context to help them complete the rest. Check the answers as a class.
- 9** Tell students to find a partner and spend a couple of minutes noting down ideas for exercise 4. Remind them that for help they can look at the conversation texts and vocabulary from earlier exercise material, as well as their lesson preparation.
- 10** For exercise 5, ask students if they know what is meant by *speed dating* and *speed friending* (*a version of speed dating for making friends rather than romantic relationships*).



**Teaching tip:** Tip: Students can read more about speed dating here:

[www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/speed-dating.html](http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/speed-dating.html)

- 11** If time permits, set up a speed-friending activity in class. Give students three minutes to talk to each other before moving on to the next person. Remind them to briefly describe themselves and talk about their interests. Based only on what they discovered in the three minutes, who would they like to meet again?

### KEY:

**1a** students' own answers

**2a** students' own answers

### 2b

1. Sam
2. Sam
3. Patrick, Sam, Erica
4. Maitrayee
5. Patrick
6. Maitrayee

### 2c

1. strong
2. complement
3. goals
4. out
5. comfort
6. caring
7. company

### 2d

Suggested answers:

Pros: Dating apps are often quick, easy to use, can be used anywhere with an internet connection and give a lot of choice  
Cons: There is a security risk when meeting strangers, they can take up a lot

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of time, the need to promote yourself means you have to be quite confident

### 3a

1. a night in front of the TV
2. dog hairs
3. (lots of) meat
4. go to the gym
5. Star Wars movies
6. tidy kitchens
7. ice-cream in unusual flavours
8. taking my dog for a run

### 3b Suggested answers:

Yes. They both love taking exercise. They both enjoy eating meat and sweet things. Neither of them is tidy in the kitchen or care too much about their appearance. No. They may not like watching the same things on TV. One of them has a dog and the other one doesn't like dog hairs.

### 3c

1. have (a lot) in common
2. hit it off
3. get to know
4. get on with
5. get on like a house on fire
6. flirt
7. enjoy (each other's) company
8. click
9. on the same wavelength
10. ask (you) out

### 4 students' own answers

- 5** *speed dating / friending* = an organised event in which people looking for a partner/friends divide into pairs and have short conversations with each other. They then decide which of these people they would like to meet again.

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**Q1: Tell us about your partner.**

**Patrick:** My partner is Mexican, and she's 38 and she works in finance.

**Sam:** My wife is called Molly, and she has kind of long brown hair, big blue eyes and she's obviously very beautiful. And she's very funny and very kind of charismatic.

**Maitrayee:** He's really tall and he's got a nice, lovely long nose, which I love. I love interesting and odd noses.

**Q2: How did you meet him/her?**

**Sam:** We first met because we were studying the same course at university.

**Maitrayee:** On a dating site, so we met on *OK Cupid*.

**Patrick:** We met in a bar.

**Q3: What was your first date?**

**Patrick:** The first date was actually to a wine bar and we had a bottle of wine and shared a cheeseboard.

**Sam:** So on our proper first date I was obviously very nervous, and, you know, I tried to dress up smart and look good and everything and it was great, actually. We went for a walk along the river Thames.

**Maitrayee:** So, I have a dating spot, it makes me feel in control so I just invite everyone down to one café which is near my old university. So it's an area I'm really familiar with.

**Q4: What do you like about your partner?**

**Maitrayee:** I guess he's somebody that I share a lot of values with. So, I realised very early on that he has a group of friends and it's very important for him, family's very important for him. And although we are so different, you know, these things really, kind of, tie us together. Honestly, we are very different, we have completely different hobbies and we have completely different food cultures, we enjoy completely different things.

**Patrick:** Dee is very friendly, kind, generous, intelligent, funny. She's a fantastic cook as well, which is always important. And she's beautiful.

**Q5: Why do you think you are happy together?**

**Patrick:** I think we're happy together because we've got similar personalities and we kind of complement each other very well. And she's very patient, which is important, I think. Yeah, and we just get on, we like similar things.

**Sam:** I don't know, I think we do have similar interests, so we both like similar films so we can watch lots of films together. We also both really like travelling, so that's something that we used to be really excited about. And I guess we have kind of similar goals, in that we both want to have a big family and go and live in the countryside and that kind of thing. So, I think a lot of that, it just helps.

**Q6: What do you think is the best way to find a partner?**

**Sam:** Well, I've been with Molly for, I think, sort of 14 or 15 years and I think a lot has changed about how people meet people in that time. And from what I kind of know of the modern dating world, with, you know,

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dating apps and that kind of thing, I'm sort of quite glad that I don't have to go through that because it sounds like a really difficult thing to do.

**Patrick:** I think that depends very much on your personality, but it might be something like going to a club or joining like a book club or athletics club or something where you've got an interest in there and finding people with similar interests. I don't think work's a good place, really, because often if you work together and have a relationship it can also be quite precarious.

**Maitrayee:** Well, I think putting myself – like not giving up, I guess that was quite my thing. I guess I always kept looking. So, yes, I was married and then, you know, it didn't work out and then I had another partner and that didn't work out. And, but, as soon as I break up I know a lot of people take some time, but I just went, you know, I just, like, went out!

### Q7: What do you think about internet dating?

**Patrick:** I think it's perfectly acceptable and I think it's become more and more acceptable over the last, sort of, decade or so.

**Maitrayee:** It's great to, kind of, get you out of your comfort zone. So, if you, kind of, feel a bit sort of stuck in your dating life and you're not meeting anyone you're connecting with, it's a good way to sort of get out there and meet a lot of different people.

### Q8: Can you describe your best friend?

**Erica:** Right, well, my best friend is a lovely girl. In terms of appearance she's quite small and slim, she's got long, dark, black hair.

**Patrick:** My best friend is, so, she's the same age as me and she is, she's very funny, very friendly.

### Q9: How did you meet him/her?

**Patrick:** We met at university. She shared a house with an old girlfriend of mine and we've been friends ever since.

**Erica:** I met her at school, actually. We've been friends since we were at secondary school together. So, we met in music class.

### Q10: What do you like about him/her?

**Erica:** I like her because, as I said, she's very caring but we also have a lot of, we have the same kind of viewpoints in life. In particular, we care about the same social issues, we have the same sort of political viewpoints. As well as, of course, we've been friends now for a very long time so we have the same background in common, we went to the same school, we know an awful lot about each other's lives. And, we've been there for each other, I think, particularly when we've had, sort of, traumas in our lives!

**Patrick:** I like the fact that she's very passionate about the things she likes. So, she's a big, big film fan and she loves food and cooking as well. And, she's really into her exercise and running as well, as am I. And, yeah, she's great company, and a very good organizer.

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### 1 Warmer

What different ways are there to meet new people? Make a list. Which do you think is best?

- *Take up a new hobby.*
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Video



- a** Watch the video. Do the speakers mention ways to meet people that you hadn't thought of?
- b** Read the questions and tick the correct person, based on what you have heard on the video. Sometimes more than one person is correct.

Who ...?	Sam	Patrick	Maitrayee	Erica
1. met a partner or friend at university?				
2. went for a walk on a first date?				
3. has similar interests to their partner or friend?				
4. met their partner on a dating site?				
5. thinks that work isn't a very good place to find a partner?				
6. was married before?				

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- c** Choose the correct option to complete the statements. Then watch the video again and check your answers.
1. If someone is charismatic, they have a *strong/weak* personality.
  2. People who *complement/complete* each other well often have good relationships.
  3. If two people have similar *roles/goals*, they hope to achieve the same things in life.
  4. If a relationship doesn't work *out/off*, then it isn't successful.
  5. Your *comfortable/comfort* zone is a situation or place that you feel relaxed in.
  6. A *careful/caring* person is kind, helpful and sympathetic to other people.
  7. If a person is great *company/character*, they are fun to be with.
- d** Sam says online dating '*sounds like a really difficult thing to do.*' Do you agree? What do you think are the pros and cons of dating apps / online dating?

### 3 Language in use

- a** Work in pairs. Ask your partner questions to complete the profile.

#### Student A

##### OnMyBike, 24

**Likes:** Star Wars movies, my bike

**Pet hates:** tidy kitchens, soap operas

**Favourite food:** Steak, ice-cream in unusual flavours



I absolutely love exercise and work up a sweat every day. Whether it's playing football, taking my dog for a run or cycling to work, I'm happiest when I'm outside making myself tired. You'll never see me wearing a suit.

#### Student B

##### NotYourAverageBear, 26

**Likes:** A night in front of the TV, fresh air

**Pet hates:** dog hairs, washing up

**Favourite food:** anything sweet, meat – lots of it!



I don't spend hours in the bathroom. I do go to the gym, wear baggy old sweaters and put my feet on the sofa. I'm an energetic person who likes to exercise by day and chill out by night.

#### NotYourAverageBear, 26

**Likes:** (1) \_\_\_\_\_, fresh air

**Pet hates:** (2) \_\_\_\_\_, washing up

**Favourite food:** anything sweet, (3) \_\_\_\_\_



I don't wear make-up or spend hours in the bathroom. I do (4) \_\_\_\_\_, wear baggy old sweaters and put my feet on the sofa. I'm an energetic person who likes to exercise by day and chill out by night.

#### OnMyBike, 24

**Likes:** (5) \_\_\_\_\_, my bike

**Pet hates:** (6) \_\_\_\_\_, soap operas

**Favourite food:** Steak, (7) \_\_\_\_\_



I absolutely love exercise and work up a sweat every day. Whether it's playing football, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ or cycling to work, I'm happiest when I'm outside making myself tired. You'll never see me wearing a suit.

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- b** Look at the profiles again. Do you think the two people will like each other? Why or why not?
- c** Read the two conversations below. Look at the words and phrases in bold, and match them with their meanings (1-10).

**Alexa:** So, how was your first week at university?

**Simon:** It was great, thanks – tiring, but exciting, too.

**Alexa:** Brilliant. Have you made any new friends yet?

**Simon:** Well, I've met quite a few people – you know, in bars and at organized events.

**Alexa:** OK. And anyone you think you might **get on with**?

**Simon:** Yeah, one or two. There's this guy, Paul. He's on my course, and we got talking on the first day. He's really friendly, and we **have a lot in common**. Would you believe it – he comes from Liverpool too!

**Alexa:** Wow, what a coincidence!

**Simon:** And we've got loads of shared interests. He's really into electronics like me, and he loves online gaming.

**Alexa:** Sounds like you two will **get on like a house on fire** – you're never away from your computer!

**Simon:** [laughs] I know. I need to **get to know** him of course, but the first time we met, we really **hit it off**.

**Alexa:** Sounds great, Simon, I'm really pleased for you.

**Simon:** Thanks!



1. to have the same experiences, interests or opinions as someone else

\_\_\_\_\_

2. to like each other when you meet for the first time

\_\_\_\_\_

3. to start to understand someone after spending time together

\_\_\_\_\_

4. to like someone and be friendly to them

\_\_\_\_\_

5. to become good friends very quickly and have a lot to talk to each other about

\_\_\_\_\_



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**Maria:** *Did Ric **ask you out** last week?*

**Ellen:** *Yeah, we had lunch at that new Italian restaurant and then went for a walk in the park.*

**Maria:** *So, how did you get on?*

**Ellen:** *Well, I'm not sure I'll be going out with him again ... Don't get me wrong, he's nice enough, but I just don't think he's the right guy for me. We didn't particularly **enjoy each other's company**.*

**Maria:** *That's a shame. Why?*

**Ellen:** *We're just not **on the same wavelength**. For starters, he's mad about football, which I really hate ... and then, well, he also tucked into this huge plate of meat, and I'm a vegetarian.*

**Maria:** *[laughs] Well, that's hardly the end of the world!*

**Ellen:** *I know, I know, but I can't explain – we just didn't **click**. But I'm guessing it'll only be a matter of time before he starts **flirting** with someone else.*

**Maria:** *Hey, you could be right there – he definitely likes female company. Well, don't worry – I'm sure one day you'll meet an amazing guy and it'll all work out.*

**Ellen:** *[Laughs] I hope so!*



6. to behave towards someone in a way that shows you have a romantic interest in them

\_\_\_\_\_

7. to like being together

\_\_\_\_\_

8. to immediately understand someone and realize that you like them

\_\_\_\_\_

9. understanding how someone thinks and having similar interests and opinions

\_\_\_\_\_

10. to invite someone to go somewhere with you because you want to start a romantic relationship with them

\_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Communicate

Complete the task in pairs.

Think about a time when you met someone for the first time or went on a first date, and tell your partner about the experience. What happened? What did you like (or not like) about them? Are you friends now? Why or why not?

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*We met in a bar / at university.*

*We didn't really have anything in common.*

*We got on quite well.*

*We clicked straight away.*

*She's very different from me.*

*We've been friends ever since.*

*He's a bit bossy / bad-tempered / sensitive.*

*He's a good laugh / a nice guy / great company.*

*She's into cooking / sport like me.*

*It didn't work out.*

### 5 Discuss – speed dating/friending



*What is speed dating or speed friending? Do you think it's a good idea? Why or why not?*

#### Red Words

boyfriend\*\* click\* friend\*\*\* date\*\*\* girlfriend\*\* guy\*\* meet\*\*\* partner \*\*\*  
 personality\*\*\* profile\*\* relationship\*\*\*