

## Reading Lesson

### A1 Science: Friends or “Friends”?

#### Reading

Read the blog from a social scientist. How has social media changed your friendships?

#### Friends or “Friends”?



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Today, I’m writing about friendship and social media. How many “friends” do you have on social media? Ten? Fifty? Hundreds? Are most of your social media friends also your friends in real life?

There are a lot of good things about social media, but there are also some problems with it. First, the time that you are on social media each day is time that you are not talking to friends or family face-to-face. Second, communication of feelings can be hard on social media because we can’t see body language. This can be a problem. Third, you have to be careful with your personal information on social media. It can be dangerous to give information about where you live, where you go out with friends, or even where you go to school.

However, social media can be very positive for friendships. You can talk to friends or family members who live in other places. You can meet and talk to people in other areas of your country or in other countries. This is a very good way to learn about other cultures. If you are learning a language, you can talk to people who speak that language. Finally, social media is a good way to meet people in your profession and to find out about possible jobs.

So have fun with social media, but save time for face-to-face communication, too. It’s important to have friends and not just “friends.”

#### Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words and phrases from the box.

body language    communication    face-to-face    friendship    on social media

1. When you talk to someone in person, not on the phone or on social media, you are talking \_\_\_\_\_.
2. To be friends with someone is to have a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When you are *using* social media, you are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Writing and talking are forms of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When you move your arms or your face to express feelings, you are using \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Comprehension

Match to complete the sentences.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Many social media friends _____                     | a communicate feelings.                       |
| 2. If you are on social media, _____                   | b for friendships.                            |
| 3. Body language helps us _____                        | c you are not talking to people face-to-face. |
| 4. On social media, you shouldn't share too much _____ | d are not friends in real life.               |
| 5. Social media is positive _____                      | e personal information.                       |

### Thinking

Think about the questions in the first paragraph of the blog. What are some differences between a friend and a social media “friend”?