

## What is a Friend? A friend listens to you; thinks you are interesting, enjoys you...

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A friend is someone who listens to you; who thinks you are interesting; who enjoys your conversation; who smiles at you instead of frowning. A friend is a person who accepts you for what you are; a friend is someone who loves you no matter what you do; who praises you when you do something good and is not afraid of criticizing you when you do something wrong because he loves you. You know and sense that he loves you and this is why he is criticizing you -- he wants you to improve, to become more lovable, so that he can love you more deeply.

A friend is someone you can always count on; someone who you know will always be there to help you. He is someone you can call on any hour of the day or night and he will give you a sympathetic ear. A friend is a shoulder to lean on when you need support; he picks you up when you fall down in discouragement or failure. A friend is someone who comes, when you call for help. A friend is someone who is there, when you need him the most.

A friend is someone with whom you can dare to be yourself, who inspires you to be honest with yourself, to drop the pretense, to stop the acting, to take off the mask. A friend is someone you don't have to impress, who assures you that you are lovable in yourself without having to try to be something that you are not. A friend is someone you feel comfortable with, at home with. A friend is someone with whom you can dare to be uninhibited, to whom you can reveal your most intimate feelings and thoughts.

A friend is someone who inspires you to reveal yourself, who shares your innermost thoughts and feelings, who knows your abilities and limitations and still loves you. A friend is someone who understands you, who sympathizes with you, who puts up with your faults and limitations. A friend is someone who laughs with you and not at you, who helps you to laugh at yourself when you make a mistake or when you do something foolish.

A friend is another self; you see yourself reflected in his eyes; you see yourself reflected in him, because he has a part of yourself; because you have shared your innermost self with him, part of you lives on in him. A friend is someone who is tied to your life with ties stronger than blood ties. A friend is someone whose joy causes joy in you; whose sorrow causes sorrow in you; a friend is someone who is on your mind even when you are not thinking about him; who is with you even when you are not aware of it; who is close to you even when you are separated by time and space. no possibility of separation. A friend is someone you want to become one with in a unity which does not destroy your individuality.

A friend is someone you always want to be with; someone whose presence is joy; whose smile is uplifting; whose conversation is happiness. A friend is someone you love; someone you want to share your life with; someone you want to be united to with.

Friendship is a union which seeks to conquer death -- seeks eternity -- an "always and ever, now and forever." A friend is someone whose death causes part of yourself to die; a friendship is something that gives hope that death is not the end of all -- that it might just be a beginning.