Relationships: friends forever

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each advanced friendship term with its definition.

1 affinity ____	**a** a renewal of friendly relations after estrangement
2 reciprocity ____	**b** a natural liking or connection between people
3 platonic ____	**c** the mutual exchange of support and effort in a relationship
4 disingenuous ____	**d** not sincere, though appearing to be
5 rapprochement ____	**e** nonromantic, based purely on friendship
6 begrudge ____	**f** to resent someone's good fortune or success
7 steadfast ____	**g** loyal and unwavering, even under pressure
8 vicarious ____	**h** experienced indirectly through another person's feelings
9 magnanimous ____	**i** generous in forgiving or overlooking a wrong
10 transactional ____	**j** based on exchange or self-interest rather than genuine care

2 Choose the most precise term for each context.

1 A friendship based on give-and-take support may show reciprocity / vicarious pleasure.

2 A friend who resents your success may begrudge / champion your achievements.

3 A renewal of contact after years of silence may be a rapprochement / a betrayal.

4 A friendship that expects favours in return is transactional / platonic.

5 A person who forgives easily and generously is magnanimous / disingenuous.

6 A friend who remains loyal through hardship is steadfast / fickle.

7 Feeling someone's joy as if it were your own is vicarious / begrudging.

8 An insincere compliment from a friend may be described as disingenuous / candid.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form academic collocations.

1 forge ____	**a** a friendship
2 nurture ____	**b** a bond

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3 sever ____	**c** ties
4 rekindle ____	**d** a sense of trust
5 foster ____	**e** mutual understanding
6 betray ____	**f** a broken relationship
7 cultivate ____	**g** a confidence
8 mend ____	**h** a lasting connection

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4 Complete the analysis with terms from the box.

affinity | disingenuous | estrangement | magnanimous | platonic | rapprochement | reciprocal | reciprocity | steadfast | vicarious

Sociologists argue that enduring friendships depend on genuine 1 _____ rather than on the appearance of closeness. An 2 _____ compliment may temporarily preserve harmony, but it undermines trust in the long term. True friendship is typically 3 _____: both people offer 4 _____ support rather than expecting one-sided sacrifice. A natural 5 _____ between two people can deepen into a 6 _____ bond that survives disagreement. Even after a serious 7 _____, a 8 _____ friend may work towards 9 _____, and a 10 _____ friend may take real pleasure in another's success.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The architecture of adult friendship

Unlike childhood friendships, which often form through proximity, adult friendships tend to require deliberate investment: time, vulnerability and the willingness to prioritise another person amid competing demands. Sociological research suggests that reciprocity, rather than mere affection, predicts whether a friendship endures, since a relationship perceived as consistently one-sided eventually erodes even strong initial affinity. Estrangement is rarely caused by a single dramatic betrayal; more often it results from a gradual accumulation of small, unaddressed grievances. A rapprochement, when it occurs, typically depends less on resolving every past disagreement than on both parties choosing to reinvest in the relationship going forward.

1 How do adult friendships typically differ from childhood ones? _____

2 What does research suggest predicts whether a friendship endures? _____

3 What happens to a relationship perceived as one-sided? _____

4 What usually causes estrangement, according to the text? _____

5 What does a rapprochement typically depend on? _____

6 Is resolving every past disagreement essential to reconciliation? _____

6 Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation.

1 They renewed their friendship after years apart. _____

2 She always gives generously without expecting anything back. _____

3 His compliment did not seem sincere. _____

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4 The two friends felt an immediate natural connection. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 160-190 word critical commentary on how adult friendships are formed, sustained or lost. Distinguish observation from inference and evaluate the roles of reciprocity, effort and circumstance.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Include four academic collocations. [ ] Maintain a precise, balanced register.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced friendship terms

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

2 Precise terms

1 reciprocity 2 begrudge 3 a rapprochement 4 transactional 5 magnanimous 6 steadfast 7 vicarious 8 disingenuous

3 Academic collocations

1 a forge a friendship 2 b nurture a bond 3 c sever ties 4 h rekindle a lasting connection
5 e foster mutual understanding 6 g betray a confidence 7 d cultivate a sense of trust 8 f mend a broken relationship

4 Analysis

1 reciprocity 2 disingenuous 3 reciprocal 4 mutual 5 affinity 6 steadfast 7 estrangement
8 magnanimous 9 rapprochement 10 vicarious

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 They require deliberate investment rather than forming through proximity.
2 Reciprocity, rather than mere affection.
3 It eventually erodes, even with strong initial affinity.
4 A gradual accumulation of small, unaddressed grievances.
5 Both parties choosing to reinvest in the relationship going forward.
6 No, it is not essential.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 experienced a rapprochement 2 magnanimous 3 disingenuous 4 affinity

Over to you

Answers will vary. Look for conceptual precision, evidence-aware reasoning and balanced evaluation.