
TOPIC: Relationship

Part 1:

- Do you see your friends very often?
- What do you like about your close friends?
- Have you known each other long?

Part 2:

Describe a person you are very close to. You should say:

- who this person is
- when you met them
- where you met them
- and say what it is about them you like so much.

Part 3:

- Do you think marriage is still as important as ever?
 - What do you think is the ideal time to get married?
 - Is it important to keep in contact with our friends when we're in a relationship?
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SAMPLE ANSWER (BAND 7.5+)**Part 1:**

Examiner: Do you see your friends very often?

Louisa: Yes ... we meet up most weekends ... we all **get on really well** and **have a lot in common** so we're always happy doing the same things and going to the same places.

Examiner: What do you like about your close friends?

Anna: I think we **enjoy each other's company** ... we **see eye-to-eye on** most things so we rarely **fall out with** each other.

Examiner: Have you known each other long?

Amy: Most of them yes ... although my closest friend Carrie ... we **struck up a relationship** at college and **got on like a house on fire** ... but yes ... my other friendships **go back years** to when we were at school.

Part 2:

Describe a person you are very close to. You should say:

- who this person is
- when you met them
- where you met them
- and say what it is about them you like so much.

Reiko: I'd like to talk about my boyfriend ... Jose ... we **got to know** each other at University almost 4 years ago ... we were in the same department ... initially we were **just good friends** and used to go out in a group with our other friends ... when Jose went back to Spain for the holidays we would **keep in touch with** each other ... then one year he invited me to come to Spain with him ... and that's when we **fell for** each other I think ... so you couldn't really say it was **love at first sight** as it had been over a year since we'd met ... but we really **hit it off** and by the time we got back to university in September we were able to tell all our friends that we were **in a relationship** ... what do I like about Jose ... well he's very kind ... very funny ... and very supportive ... and we're really **well matched** in our interests ... he hasn't

popped the question yet though ... we've talked about getting married and I think we're both ready **to settle down** and have children ... we'll just have to wait and see ...

Part 3

Examiner: Do you think marriage is still as important as ever?

Cristine: Yes ... it certainly is in my country ... I think the problem for some people is a lack of commitment ... all relationships **have their ups and downs** but some people prefer to **break up** rather than **working at** the relationship.

Examiner: What do you think is the ideal time to get married?

Terry: Personally ... I think you should wait until you've found yourself first ... decided if you want a career ... perhaps do some travelling ... you should do this before **tying the knot** ... although if you **fall head over heels in love** plans like these can easily be forgotten.

Examiner: Is it important to keep in contact with our friends when we're in a relationship?

Maria: Absolutely ... it's so easy to **drift apart** from your friends when you **fall in love** ... but I think both partners should try not **to lose touch with** their friends ... that's the best way to have a **healthy relationship** with your partner.

Definitions

- **to break up:** to end a romantic relationship
- **to drift apart:** to become less close to someone
- **to enjoy someone's company:** to like spending time with someone
- **to fall for:** to fall in love
- **to fall head over heels in love:** to start to love someone a lot
- **to fall out with:** to have a disagreement and stop being friends
- **to get on like a house on fire:** to like someone's company very much indeed
- **to get on well with:** to understand someone and enjoy similar interests
- **to get to know:** to begin to know someone
- **to go back years:** to have known someone for a long time
- **to have a lot in common:** to share similar interests
- **to have ups and downs:** to have good and bad times
- **a healthy relationship:** a good, positive relationship
- **to hit it off:** to quickly become good friends with
- **to be in a relationship:** to be romantically involved with someone
- **to be just good friends:** to not be romantically involved
- **to keep in touch with:** to keep in contact with
- **to lose touch with:** to not see or hear from someone any longer
- **love at first sight:** to fall in love immediately you meet someone
- **to pop the question:** to ask someone to marry you
- **to see eye to eye:** to agree on a subject
- **to settle down:** to give up the single life and start a family
- **to strike up a relationship:** to begin a friendship
- **to tie the knot:** to get married
- **to be well matched:** to be similar to
- **to work at a relationship:** to try to maintain a positive relationship with someone

MASTER ALL THE USEFUL EXPRESSIONS NOW!**Part 1:**

Examiner: Do you see your friends very often?

Louisa: Yes ... we meet up most weekends ... we all **hợp nhau lắm/chơi thân lắm** and **có rất nhiều điểm chung** so we're always happy doing the same things and going to the same places.

Examiner: What do you like about your close friends?

Anna: I think we **thích ở bên nhau/thích chơi với nhau...** we **có suy nghĩ giống nhau về** most things so we rarely **mâu thuẫn** each other.

Examiner: Have you known each other long?

Amy: Most of them yes ... although my closest friend Carrie ... we **(đã) bắt đầu kết bạn** at college and **dính nhau như sam...** but yes ... my other friendships **bắt đầu từ lâu** to when we were at school.

1. **hợp nhau lắm/chơi thân lắm** = get on really well
2. **có rất nhiều điểm chung** = have a lot in common
3. **thích ở bên nhau/thích chơi với nhau** = enjoy each other's company
4. **có suy nghĩ giống nhau về** = see eye-to-eye on
5. **mâu thuẫn** = fall out with
6. **(đã) bắt đầu kết bạn** = struck up a relationship
7. **(đã) dính nhau như sam** = got on like a house on fire
8. **bắt đầu từ lâu** = go back years

Part 2: Describe a person you are very close to. You should say:

- who this person is
- when you met them
- where you met them
- and say what it is about them you like so much.

Reiko: I'd like to talk about my boyfriend ... Jose ... we **bắt đầu quen nhau** each other at University almost 4 years ago ... we were in the same department ... initially we were **chỉ là bạn tốt** and used to go out in a group with our other friends ... when Jose went back to Spain for the holidays we would **giữ liên lạc** each other ... then one year he invited me to come to Spain with him ... and that's when we **say nắng/yêu** each other I think ... so you couldn't really say it was **tình yêu sét đánh** as it had been over a year since we'd met ... but we really **nhanh chóng kết thân** and by the time we got back to university in September we were able to tell all our friends that we were **có quan hệ tình cảm với nhau...** what do I like about Jose ... well he's very kind ... very funny ... and very supportive ... and we're really **rất hợp nhau** in our interests ... he hasn't **câu hôn** yet though ... we've talked about getting married and I think we're both ready **lập gia đình** and have children ... we'll just have to wait and see ...

1. **bắt đầu quen nhau** = got to know
2. **chỉ là bạn tốt** = just good friends
3. **giữ liên lạc** = keep in touch with
4. **say nắng/yêu** = fell for
5. **tình yêu sét đánh** = love at first sight
6. **nhanh chóng kết thân** = hit it off
7. **có quan hệ tình cảm với nhau** = in a relationship
8. **rất hợp nhau** = well matched
9. **câu hôn** = popped the question
10. **lập gia đình** = to settle down

Part 3

Examiner: Do you think marriage is still as important as ever?

Cristine: Yes ... it certainly is in my country ... I think the problem for some people is **(một sự) thiếu cam kết**... all relationships **có lúc thăng lúc trầm**... but some people prefer to **chia tay** rather than **gìn giữ mối quan hệ**.

Examiner: What do you think is the ideal time to get married?

Terry: Personally ... I think you should wait until you've found yourself first ... decided if you want a career ... perhaps do some travelling ... you should do this before **tiến tới hôn nhân/kết hôn**... although if you **say nhau như điều đổ** plans like these can easily be forgotten.

Examiner: Is it important to keep in contact with our friends when we're in a relationship?

Maria: Absolutely ... it's so easy to **thiếu quan tâm tới nhau** from your friends when you **bắt đầu/có tình yêu** ... but I think both partners should try not **mất liên lạc với** their friends ... that's the best way to have a **quan hệ tốt** with your partner.

1. **(một sự) thiếu cam kết** = a lack of commitment
2. **có lúc thăng lúc trầm** = have their ups and downs
3. **chia tay** = break up
4. **gìn giữ mối quan hệ** = working at the relationship
5. **tiến tới hôn nhân/kết hôn** = tying the knot
6. **say nhau như điều đổ** = fall head over heels in love
7. **thiếu quan tâm tới nhau** = drift apart
8. **bắt đầu/có tình yêu** = fall in love
9. **mất liên lạc với** = to lose touch with
10. **quan hệ tốt** = healthy relationship

Family & Relationship Essay Titles

Practice IELTS essay questions for the topic of family and children.

Question 1

Nowadays parents put too much pressure on their children to succeed.
What is the reason for doing this?
Is this a negative or positive development? (Reported 2017, Academic Test)

Question 3

In many modern societies, grandchildren rarely spend any quality time with their grandparents.
What do you think are the consequences of this?

Question 4

Children can learn effectively by watching television. Therefore they should be encouraged to watch television regularly at home and at school.
To what extent do you agree or disagree? (Reported 2017, Academic Test)

Question 5

Some people think that the role of parents is to discipline their children and teach them about right and wrong. Other people consider that the main responsibility of parents is to nurture their children and provide them with a safe environment to grow up in.
Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Question 6

Most modern families have both parents working and as a result children spend less and less time with their parents.
What is the reason for this?
What problems can this cause?

Question 9

In the past, the older generation were a source of knowledge and experience. Nowadays, the older generation have little understanding or experience of the modern world.
Has this had any negative impact on the way the elderly are treated by society and the family?
What could be done to solve this situation?