

The Ties that Bind: Exploring the Qualities of a True Friend

Level: B1/B2 Intermediate English for Foreign Language Learners

Time: 90 minutes

Materials:

- Laptop, projector, and whiteboard
- Prepared Obsidian slides (as described in your outline)
- Handouts:
 - Transcript of “What Makes a Good Friend?” video with discussion questions
 - Transcript of “5 Levels of Friendship” video with discussion questions
- Markers for whiteboard

Objectives: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand and discuss common English proverbs related to friendship.
- Identify and discuss qualities they value in friends.
- Share personal anecdotes and experiences related to friendship in English.
- Practice listening and speaking skills in a supportive environment.
- Use vocabulary related to friendship and personal qualities.

Lesson Stages:

Stage 1: Warm-up: Exploring Proverbs about Friendship (20 minutes)

1. **Individual Reflection (3 minutes):** Project the first slide with the proverb “A friend in need is a friend indeed.” Ask students to think silently about its meaning.
2. **Guided Discovery (5 minutes):** Advance through the slides, revealing each possible meaning of the proverb one by one. Allow time for processing and clarification.
3. **Cultural Connection (7 minutes):** Project the slide with three additional proverbs. Divide students into pairs or small groups. Ask them to discuss the meanings and find equivalent Japanese proverbs (provide the ones you found as hints if needed).
4. **Whole Class Sharing (5 minutes):** Invite each group to share their interpretations and Japanese proverb equivalents. Facilitate brief discussion and offer explanations as needed.

Stage 2: Listening and Discussion: Children’s Perspectives (25 minutes)

1. **Pre-viewing (5 minutes):** Distribute the handout with the video transcript and discussion questions. Review the questions to activate prior knowledge and set a clear purpose for listening.

2. **Video Viewing (8 minutes):** Play the video of British children answering “What makes a good friend?”.
3. **Small Group Discussion (10 minutes):** Divide students into different pairs/ small groups than the previous activity. Encourage them to use the transcript and discuss the provided questions.
4. **Whole Class Sharing (2 minutes):** Briefly invite groups to share some of their key takeaways or interesting points from their discussions.

Stage 3: Expanding Vocabulary: The 5 Levels of Friendship (20 minutes)

1. **Pre-viewing (3 minutes):** Distribute the handout for the Psych2Go video (“The 5 Levels of Friendship”). Briefly introduce the concept of different levels of friendship.
2. **Video Viewing (8 minutes):** Play the video.
3. **Small Group Discussion (7 minutes):** Keeping students in the same groups, facilitate discussion using the provided comprehension questions. Encourage them to connect the video content to their own lives.
4. **Whole Class Sharing (2 minutes):** Briefly open the floor for sharing any interesting observations or personal connections made during the small group discussions.

Stage 4: Personal Reflection & Sharing: My Ideal Friend (20 minutes)

1. **Individual Brainstorming (5 minutes):** Project the slide asking students to individually list the 5 most important qualities in a friend, in order of importance.
2. **Revealing Common Qualities (3 minutes):** Advance the slides to reveal the list of common qualities. Encourage students to compare their own lists. Briefly discuss any surprises or differences.
3. **Sharing Personal Anecdotes (10 minutes):** Ask students to choose one quality and prepare to talk about a friend who embodies that quality. Model an example first. Give them a few minutes to think, then invite them to share their stories with the class.
4. **Wrap-up Discussion (2 minutes):** Ask: “What have we learned today about friendship? Why is it important to think about these qualities?”

Stage 5: Feedback and Further Reflection (5 minutes)

1. **Website Prompt:** Project the slide with your website address and instructions for leaving a comment. Remind them of the two prompts:
 - What did you learn from this lesson?
 - How did you feel about this lesson?
2. **Closing:** Thank students for their participation and encourage them to continue reflecting on the qualities of true friendship.

Additional Tips:

- **Visual Aids:** Make good use of your slides to provide visual support, especially when introducing new vocabulary.
- **Culture:** Be mindful that older Japanese adults might have different expectations about sharing personal stories. Encourage, but don't pressure, participation.
- **Pace and Clarity:** Speak clearly, and be prepared to rephrase or explain things in multiple ways. Check for understanding regularly.
- **Positive Atmosphere:** Create a relaxed and encouraging environment where students feel comfortable taking risks and making mistakes.

Remember, flexibility is key. Adapt the lesson based on your students' energy levels and engagement!