

Good Friendships Are Priceless

Are you a good friend? Ask yourself whether these traits apply to your friendships:

- You bring out the best in your friend and make him feel good about himself.
- You're delighted for your friend's happiness and never envious of her success.
- You put your friend's needs ahead of your own and know that your kindness will be reciprocated one day. But you never keep score.
- You're willing to do anything for your friend — even when it's inconvenient.
- If your friend needs something, you jump right in, but you know when to back off.
- You make your friend feel at ease — no judging.
- You're happy just to be in your friend's company. You don't need to be entertained.
- You're comfortable sharing your innermost thoughts and feelings.
- You're also good at being a sounding board — being all ears if required.
- You don't sugarcoat bad news. You tell it like it is — even if it hurts.
- Your friend's behavior is so reliable and consistent, you can predict his words and actions.
- You know your friend like the back of your hand. In fact, it feels like you can communicate without talking.
- Even though you and your friend don't always see eye-to-eye, you respect your friend's opinions.
- You have total faith in your friend. You watch her back — in good times and bad — and never have to second-guess her motives.
- Time and distance have little if any bearing on your relationship. You can be separated and then pick up right where you left off.
- You are very protective of your relationship. You'd never take your friendship for granted or do anything to jeopardize it.
- You share common *interests* and *values*. Principles form the heart of every successful relationship and can ultimately determine its success.



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