



ADVANCING FUTURES

Education for Sustainable Development and Citizenship

Skills for Problem Solving

Pre-Intermediate – Be Friendly to New Students

A. There is a new student in your class. She is from another country, and she is very quiet. She hasn't got any friends.

Think of ways to be friendly to her and help her make friends.

B. You are at a new school in a new town. You haven't got any friends. You are quiet, and it is sometimes hard for you to make new friends.

Think of ways to be friendly and make friends.

C. You and your best friend go to different schools. You want some new friends at your school. It's easy for you to make new friends. You like to talk to people.

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Reflection Point

It isn't important to have lots of friends, but meeting new people can be difficult for some people. Helping new classmates adapt to a new environment can be a great way to be friendly to others.



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Aim: to encourage students to be friendly towards other students and help new classmates adapt to a new environment

Lead-in: Put students into pairs. Write the following on the board and ask students to think of ideas to complete the sentence *A good friend...*

Point out to the students that they can finish the sentence with verbs (*A good friend listens.*) or adjectives (*A good friend is kind.*)

Elicit students' responses and write them on the board. Ask, *Are you a good friend? Why do you think so?*

Choose A Scenario: Ask students to work in pairs and choose one of the three scenarios (A–C). Ask them to read through their scenario and check understanding. Encourage them to think about how the person in each of the scenarios is feeling.

Ask pairs to then think about and write down ideas of how they could be friendly and make friends. Monitor and help with language where necessary. Encourage students to keep the Reflection Point in mind while doing the task.

Reflection Point: Point out to students that some people have a lot of friends, and some people have one or two close friends. Explain to students that both are OK, but it's always nice to make new friends because they bring new things into our lives. We can make new friends by being friendly and talking to people.

However, acknowledge that some people find this hard, if they feel shy or if they are naturally a quiet person. Brainstorm ways they can either adapt to a new environment if they're timid, or how they can help others make new friends.

Class discussion: Put each pair with another pair who chose the same scenario. Ask them to compare their ideas they thought of to help the person/people in the scenario. Did they have similar ideas?

Ask, *what are good questions to ask someone when you want to start a conversation and be friendly? What body language can you use to show you are friendly?*

Ask a couple of students to demonstrate friendly gestures or facial expressions (e.g., smiling, nodding when someone is talking, making eye contact, etc.).

Ask students to demonstrate unfriendly gestures or facial expressions (e.g., scowling, avoiding eye contact, crossing arms, looking bored when someone is speaking, etc.).

Work alone: Ask students to work alone, choose a second scenario (A–C) and write down their ideas on how to help these people.

Once they have finished, invite individual students to present their scenario to the class and explain what their ideas are.

Extension: Ask students to think of an example of a situation in which they would need to make new friends (e.g., starting a new school, joining a club, going on holiday to a new place, etc.).

Ask them to work in pairs and role play the situation with their partner taking the role of themselves. Pairs then swap and role play the other partner's situation. Encourage students to be friendly and talkative and to use appropriate body language to show they are friendly.