

Idiom of the Month: A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED

By Sarah Gudgeon

I Tick the word that you can't use to talk about people you know.

- a. mate
- b. buddy
- c. pal
- d. stranger
- e. classmate
- f. team-mate

2a Read

Who's your best friend, Maisy?

Hmmm... I know a lot of people at school and volleyball but when I was in hospital last year, it was Julia who came to see me every day.

Well, they say 'a friend in need is a friend indeed'. Julia sounds like a great friend.

2b Complete

A friend who helps you when you need them is a true friend. It is easy to be someone's friend when they don't have any problems but _____.

3 Read these friendship idioms and match each one to the correct meaning.

- a. Max is such a **fair-weather friend**. He comes to all your parties but he's never here to help when there's a problem.
- b. Jenny's dad has got **friends in high places**. He can get her into the VIP event for free.
- c. Maggie was Kate's best friend but she still stole her boyfriend. **With friends like that, who needs enemies?**
- d. Rosy and Anita are **bosom buddies**- they met at nursery school. They share all their secrets.
- e. Jonathan and Lucy were **fast friends**, no-one could separate them.
- f. **There's no love lost between** Sam and Mike; they won't even play in the same football team at school.

- 1. best friends, no other people or situation could make them argue
- 2. not a true friend, he / she is not there when you need him/ her
- 3. very close friends who tell each-other everything.
- 4. they don't like each-other at all
- 5. he / she is a terrible friend, in fact more like an enemy
- 6. important friends with great influence and power

4 Write.

1. Lily and Emma were _____ but Lily told everyone Emma's secret.
They don't speak anymore.
2. Mark and Jacob fight all the time at school. There is _____
3. Janet was always with Ruth but when Ruth got sick, she never visited her. What a

4. Francesca's friends laughed at her new haircut. With _____
5. Steven's mum has got _____ and Steven has got a summer job
at Westminster.
6. Flora and Gemma are _____ they have never argued.

Answer Key

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1 Tick the word

Can't use 'stranger', it means someone you don't know.

2b Complete

A friend who helps you when you need them is a true friend. It is easy to be someone's friend when they don't have any problems **but a friend in need is a friend indeed.**

3 Read these friendship idioms and match each one to the correct meaning.

- a. 2
- b. 6
- c. 5
- d. 3
- e. 1
- f. 4

4 Complete.

1. Lily and Emma were bosom buddies but Lily told everyone Emma's secret. They don't speak anymore.
2. Mark and Jacob fight all the time at school. There is no love lost between them.
3. Janet was always with Ruth but when Ruth got sick, she never visited her.
What a fair-weather friend.
4. Francesca's friends laughed at her new haircut. With friends like that who needs enemies.
5. Steven's mum has got friends in high places and Steven has got a summer job at Westminster.
6. Flora and Gemma are fast friends they have never argued.