

Reading

1. Check (✓) the statements that you think are true.

- 1. Girls have more friends than boys.
- 2. Girls like to spend time with groups of friends, but boys don't.
- 3. Boys like to talk a lot with friends, but girls don't.
- 4. Friends are different for boys and for girls.
- 5. Girls need friends more than boys do.

2. Read the text. Which of the above statements is the main idea of the text?

Everybody needs a friend. Friends do things together. We can tell friends things we can't tell our parents. But do friends mean the same thing to girls as they do to boys? Apparently not.

When girls talk to their friends, conversation topics are usually boys, clothes, school, or the latest song from the most popular band. Friendship is more important for girls than almost anything else. Some teen girls will be friends all their lives. According to one recent survey 63 percent of girls think their female friendships are a very important part of their life. The survey also shows that 80 percent of girls like to go to 'girls only' get-togethers, such as slumber parties. That is when they have lots of time to talk.

Boys, on the other hand, prefer to do things with their friends. When boys talk to each other, it's more about the things they do, and not about how they feel. This is what Steve says about his friend, Tran: "We both read a lot, so we talk about books. But we have fun just watching TV together, going to the movies, or hanging out at the lunch table and talking about last night's basketball game."

What do you think? Is the text true about you or about the people you know?