

35 Relationships

A

Types of relationships

Here is a scale showing closeness and distance in relationships in different contexts.

	CLOSER ←	→ MORE DISTANT	
<i>friendship:</i>	best friend	good friend	friend acquaintance
<i>work:</i>	close colleague		colleague/workmate
<i>love/romance:</i>	lover	steady boy/girlfriend	ex-*
<i>marriage:</i>	wife/husband/partner		ex-*

* ex- can be used with or without (informally) another word: She's my ex. (girlfriend, etc.)

Mate is a colloquial word for a good friend. It can also be used in compounds to describe a person you share something with, e.g. classmate, shipmate, workmate, flatmate.

Workmate is usual in non-professional contexts; colleague is more common among professional people.

Fiancé/ée can still be used for someone you are engaged to, but a lot of people feel it is dated nowadays. You will sometimes see husband-/wife-to-be in journalistic style.

English has no universally accepted word for 'person I live with but am not married to', but partner is probably the commonest.

B

Liking and not liking someone

<i>core verb</i>	<i>positive</i>	<i>negative</i>
like	love adore worship idolise	dislike hate can't stand loathe
respect	look up to admire	look down on despise
attract	turn s.b. on	repel turn s.b. off
be attracted to	fancy	

She doesn't just like Bob she idolises him! I can't stand him.

I really fancy Lisa, but her friend just turns me off.

Fancy and turn off are informal. Repel is very strong and rather formal.

C

Phrases and idioms for relationships

Jo and I get on well with each other. [have a good relationship]

Adrian and Liz don't see eye to eye. [often argue/disagree]

I've fallen out with my parents again. [had arguments]

Tony and Jane have broken up / split up. [ended their relationship]

George is having an affair with his boss. [a sexual relationship, usually secret]

Children should respect their elders. [adults/parents, etc.]

Let's try and make it up. [be friends again after a row]

She's my junior / I'm her senior / I'm senior to her, so she does what she's told. [refers to position/length of service at work]

(See Unit 69 for more words relating to likes and dislikes.)

33 Describing people – appearance

A Hair, face, skin and complexion



straight hair
and thin-faced



wavy hair
and round-faced



curly hair
and dark-skinned



a crew-cut



bald
with freckles



beard and moustache
with a chubby face



receding hair
and a few wrinkles

He used to have black hair but now it's gone grey, almost white.

What sort of person would you like to go out with? Blonde, fair, dark or ginger-haired / red-haired?

She has such beautiful auburn hair. [red-brown]

Fair and dark can be used for hair, complexion or skin.

Height and build



a rather plump or
stout man



a slim woman
[positive]



an obese person
[negative, very fat]

Fat may sound impolite. Instead we often say a bit overweight. If someone is broad and solid, we can say they are stocky. A person with good muscles can be well-built or muscular. If someone is terribly thin and refuses to eat, they may be anorexic.

C General appearance

She's a very smart and elegant woman, always well-dressed; her husband is quite the opposite, very scruffy and untidy-looking.

He's very good-looking, but his friend's rather unattractive.

Do you think beautiful women are always attracted to handsome men? I don't. I think first impressions matter most.

Tip: The suffix *-ish* is useful for describing people: (see Unit 8)

She's tallish. He has brownish hair. He must be thirtyish.

90 Time

A Prepositions: at, on, in

~~_____~~ e.g. at 8 o'clock, at 3.30, at midnight
 on a day e.g. on Monday, on July 14, on the second day
 in a period e.g. in the morning, in April, in 1995

Important exceptions are: at Christmas, at Easter, at the weekend, at night

B Words often confused

Some time prepositions are easily confused. These are common problems:

I will stay here **until** she phones. (= I will go after she has phoned)
 I will be in the office **until** 4 o'clock. (= I will leave the office at 4 o'clock)
 I will be in the office **by** 4 o'clock. (= I will arrive at the office not later than 4 o'clock)
 I'll be back home **by** lunchtime. (= I will arrive home not later than lunchtime)

I've worked in this office **for** six months. (for + a period of time)

I've worked in this office **since** May. (since + a point in time)

I worked for a newspaper **during** the war / 1990 / the summer. (this tells you 'when')

I worked for a newspaper **for** four years / six months. (this tells you 'how long')

[NOT I worked for the newspaper ~~during four years.~~]

Note: During a period may mean a part of that period or the whole period, e.g. 'during the war' can mean part of the war or the whole war. The context usually makes it clear, but if we want to stress or emphasise that an action occupied the whole period, we often use **throughout**, e.g. It rained throughout the night. (= it didn't stop raining)

I'm going back to Spain **in** ten days' time. (= ten days from now)

We arranged our next meeting for April 7th. (= to be on April 7th)

C Approximate times: past and future

I've known my dentist **for ages** (= for a long time), but I haven't been for a check-up **recently/lately** (= e.g. in the last few months).

I haven't seen Tom **recently/lately** (= e.g. in the last few weeks).

I used to go to an Australian dentist but that was a **long time ago** (e.g. 5-10 years ago).

My sister went to the dentist **the other day** (= a few days ago).

This dictionary will be OK **for the time being** (= for now / until I need a better one).

D Periods of time

There are 60 **seconds** in a minute; 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week, 2 weeks in a **fortnight**, 52 weeks in a year, 10 years in a **decade**; 100 years in a **century**.

E Time passing: take and last

My English course **lasts** ten weeks. (= it continues for ten weeks)

How long does the film **last**? (= How long is it from the beginning to the end?)

It **takes** me (= I need) half an hour to get to school.

We can walk but it'll **take** (= we'll need) a long time.

Redman, Stuart: English Vocabulary in Use.
 Pre-Intermediate - Intermediate. CUP, 1997.

Exercises

90.1 Complete the text with *at*, *on*, or *in*.

There's one bus from London which gets here (1)..... ten o'clock (2)..... the morning and then another which gets in (3)..... four o'clock (4)..... the afternoon. That's (5)..... weekdays, but (6)..... the weekend the timetable is a bit different. (7)..... Saturday there are still two buses but the second one arrives (8)..... five thirty; (9)..... Sunday there is just the one bus (10)..... two o'clock. And (11)..... the winter, the service doesn't run at all (12)..... Sundays.

90.2 Cross out the incorrect answers.

- 1 The teacher told us to finish our homework by/until Monday.
- 2 We can't leave by/until the others get back.
- 3 I've been in the army for/since I was eighteen.
- 4 They've worked here for/since/during six months.
- 5 I visit my uncle every week for/since/during the winter.
- 6 I was at university for/since/during four years.
- 7 She's going back to France in/after three months' time.
- 8 He left the office during/throughout the lunch break.
- 9 It was hot during/throughout August; we didn't have one day under 30 degrees.
- 10 I booked a table in the restaurant by/for next Saturday. I hope that's OK.

90.3 Can you complete these sentences with the correct number?

- 1 The Olympic Games usually lasts about weeks.
- 2 Rembrandt was born in theth century.
- 3 President Kennedy died in That's years ago.
- 4 It takes approximately hours to fly from Tokyo to New York.
- 5 Some athletes can run 100 metres in less than seconds.
- 6 The was the decade in which the USA and USSR (at that time) were both trying to be the first country to put a man on the moon.

90.4 Replace the underlined time expressions with more 'approximate' time expressions.

- 1 I went to the library three days ago.
- 2 This dictionary isn't great but it'll be OK until I'm more advanced.
- 3 I haven't been to the cinema for the last three weeks.
- 4 And I haven't been to a concert for three or four years.
- 5 I went to Egypt with my parents but that was ten years ago.

90.5 Complete these sentences about yourself and your country.

- 1 On weekdays I usually get up at and leave home at
- 2 I always clean my teeth in
- 3 I don't go to school/college/work on
- 4 I usually have a holiday in
- 5 I have been in my present school/college/job for
- 6 I have been studying English since
- 7 I haven't spoken English since
- 8 It takes me to get to school/college/work.
- 9 You can't get a driving licence until
- 10 It rains quite a lot during