

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
- g. acquaintance
- h. colleague

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 that needs fixing.
- b. Jenny's dad has got **friends in high places**. He can get her into the VIP event for free. I wonder if he can get me in too.
- c. Maggie was Kate's best friend but she still stole her boyfriend. And she knew how in love Kate was with Patrick. **With friends like that, who needs enemies?**
- d. Rosy and Anita are **bosom buddies**- they met at nursery school. They have been friends for over fifteen years and share all their secrets.
- e. Jonathan and Lucy were **fast friends**, no-one could separate them until Frankie came along.
- f. **There's no love lost between** Sam and Mike; they won't even play in the same football team at school. They must really dislike each other!

- 1. best friends, no other people or situation could make them argue
- 2. not a true friend
- 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 Complete the sentences with one of the friendship idioms in exercise 3.

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. Everyone thought Flora and Gemma were _____ but one day they had a
big fight in science class and now they don't speak to each other.

5 Complete this sentence about yourself.

My bosom buddy is _____ because _____ .

Answer Key

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1 Tick the word

You can use mate, buddy, pal, classmate, team-mate, acquaintance, neighbour, colleague.

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 the sentences with one of the friendship idioms in exercise 3.

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. Everyone thought Flora and Gemma were fast friends but one day they had a big fight in science class and now they don't speak to each-other.