

1.1 Are you really my friend?

GOALS ■ Talk about things that are changing ■ Talk about friendships

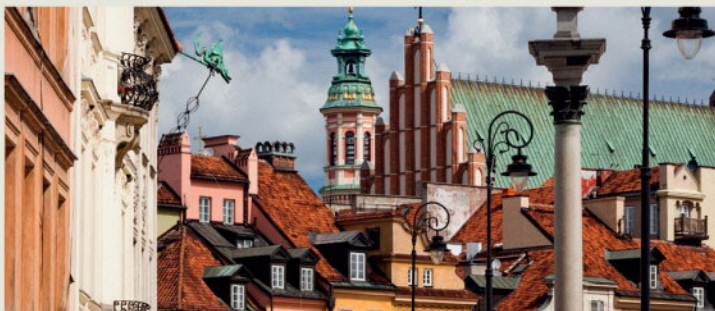
Grammar & Reading present simple, continuous and perfect

- 1 Work in small groups. Read the statement and discuss the questions.

'Among adult Facebook users, the average number of friends is 338.'

- Does this statistic surprise you? Why/Why not?
- Is it possible to really be friends with so many people? Why/Why not?

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- 2 Read the article. Why is Rob Jones trying to meet all 700 of his Facebook friends? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

Search for people, places and things Q

Face-to-face with Facebook friends Like · Comment · Share v

How many of your Facebook friends have you seen lately? For Rob Jones, who ¹ *is currently meeting* every single friend on his Facebook page, the answer could soon be 700.

His aim to raise money for a children's charity means he has already come face-to-face with 123 internet 'friends' in seven countries, some of whom he has never met before.

² *He takes* a photo for his Facebook page with everyone he meets, and persuades them to give to his charity, and he has already raised more than £3,000.

He hopes to have met all 700 within three years, travelling thousands of miles to thirty countries including New Zealand, on the other side of the world, in the process.

People often say that Facebook friends aren't real friends. But Rob met his Polish girlfriend online and ³ *they've now been* together for three years. He says ⁴ *this proves* that the internet is a powerful tool.

'I'm reuniting with friends, and in the process ⁵ *I'm learning* a lot about myself. I now have good friends in people I have never met before this.'

'Everyone has been great so far; ⁶ *I generally spend* a day with them and they choose what we do.'

His adventure has taken him across Europe, visiting England, Scotland (top photo), Poland (photo in the centre), Finland, Germany and Switzerland, and ⁷ *he's also just visited* a distant relative in the USA (bottom photo).

- 3 Read the information in the Grammar focus box and write sentences 1–7 in the article next to the appropriate grammar rule, a–f.

GRAMMAR FOCUS present simple, present continuous and present perfect simple

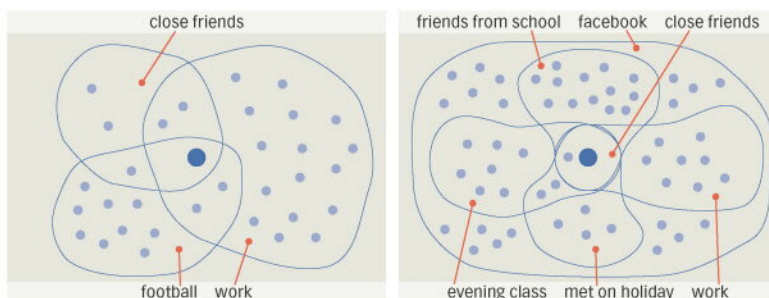
- We use the present simple to talk about
 - things that are always or generally true.
 - things that happen regularly/repeatedly.
- We use the present continuous to talk about
 - things that are happening at/around the time when we speak.
 - things that are changing.
- We use the present perfect simple to talk about
 - our experience (our lives until now).
 - things that have already/just happened.

→ Grammar Reference page 136

- 4a Choose the correct options to complete the questions.
- What *is Rob trying / does Rob try* to do?
 - How many friends *does he meet / has he met* so far?
 - Why *does he take / is he taking* a photo of everyone he meets?
 - Why does Rob believe that the internet *has been / is a* good way of making friends?
 - What *is Rob learning / does Rob learn* from the process?
 - Who *usually decides / is deciding* what to do when Rob meets a Facebook friend?
 - Which countries *does he visit / has he visited*?
- b Discuss the answers to the questions with a partner.

Vocabulary & Speaking friendship

- 5a 1.1))) Listen to two friends, Sarah and Josh, talking about their friendships. Which diagram represents each person's friendship groups?



1 _____ 2 _____

- b Tell your partner which diagram is more like your friendship groups. Explain why.

- 6a Work with a partner. Look at the verbs/verb phrases and decide if they are positive (P) or negative (N).

- get on (well) (with someone) _____
- meet up (with someone) _____
- have a lot in common (with someone) _____
- fall out (with someone) _____
- help (someone) out _____
- trust (someone) _____
- get/keep in touch (with someone) _____
- make friends (with someone) _____
- have an argument (with someone) _____

- b 1.1))) Listen again to Sarah and Josh and check your answers.

PRONUNCIATION linking

When we speak at normal speed, we link phrases so they often sound like one word.

- 7a Look at the phrases in exercise 6a. Mark the way the words link in each phrase.

get_on well with someone

- b 1.2))) Listen, check and repeat.

- 8a Complete the statements using the correct form of the verbs/verb phrases in exercise 6a.

- I often _____ groups of friends in the evening.
- You don't need to _____ someone to be friends. It's fine to have different interests.
- I _____ most people I know. There aren't many people I don't like.
- A really good friend is someone you can call at midnight and ask them to _____.
- The friends you _____ at school are often friends for life.
- I'm always pleased when someone I haven't heard from in ages _____.
- I'm quite easy-going. I rarely _____ my friends.
- I'm not speaking to my sister at the moment – we've _____ . It seems a bit childish.
- I can _____ my closest friend with all my secrets.

- b 1.3))) Listen and check your answers. How many of the statements are true for you? Explain why to a partner.

- 9 **TASK** Draw a diagram of your friendship groups, like the ones in exercise 5a. Talk to a partner about some of the people in it. Ask each other questions to get more information.

▶ VOX POPS VIDEO 1