

# 1a Unlikely friends



Image by Stevi Calandra for the National Geographic Channel

## Listening

1 Work in pairs. Look at the photo. Discuss the questions.

- What are the two animals in the photo?
- Are they normally working animals, pets, wild animals or something else?
- What does the photo suggest about these animals' characters?

2 1.2 Now listen to an extract from a radio programme about an unlikely friendship between these two animals. What things do they do together to enjoy each other's company?

3 1.2 Listen again and choose the right word to complete each statement.

- Co-operation between animals of different species is not \_\_\_\_\_.  
a natural    b easy    c usual
- Dogs are usually \_\_\_\_\_ apes.  
a suspicious of    b frightened of    c aggressive towards
- This particular dog and orang-utan behave like \_\_\_\_\_.  
a old friends    b children    c people
- Their behaviour has attracted the interest of a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a TV viewers    b scientists    c psychologists
- Orang-utans are very \_\_\_\_\_ creatures.  
a physical    b naughty    c kind
- Their relationship is based on a need in both animals to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a share new experiences    b hunt together    c be sociable

4 Do you believe animals can have friendships? Or do they form relationships only for practical reasons? Do you know other examples of sociable animals? Discuss.

## Grammar present tenses review

### PRESENT TENSES REVIEW

#### Present simple

*Suriya lives with his keepers.*

#### Present continuous

*The two animals are fulfilling a basic social need in each other.*

#### Present perfect simple

*Suriya has understood that the hound dog is very hungry.*

#### Present perfect continuous

*They have been doing this every day since they first met.*

For further information and practice, see page 84.



- 5 Look at the grammar box. Match the tenses (1–4) with their uses (a–d).

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 present simple             | a highlights a recent activity                              |
| 2 present continuous         | b describes a situation in progress or happening around now |
| 3 present perfect simple     | c describes a permanent / usual situation                   |
| 4 present perfect continuous | d highlights the present result of a recent past action     |

- 6 Choose the correct tense to complete this passage about animal friendships.

A number of recent videos on YouTube showing unlikely animal friends <sup>1</sup> *have started / have been starting* a debate about animal friendships. Lately many people <sup>2</sup> *have discussed / have been discussing* a particularly moving film which shows a dog making friends with an elephant. Elephants often <sup>3</sup> *show / are showing* concern for their social group, but there is one extraordinary scene where the elephant becomes distressed when the dog gets injured. The dog <sup>4</sup> *has recovered / has been recovering* now and the two animals have been inseparable. The question scientists <sup>5</sup> *ask / are asking* is: is such behaviour normal, or do we just want it to be? Some say it happens when animals <sup>6</sup> *have lived / have been living* close to humans. No one <sup>7</sup> *has provided / has been providing* a definite answer, but it seems some animals are just naturally sociable. Others, like giant pandas, <sup>8</sup> *live / are living* more independent and solitary lives.

- 7 Work in pairs. Explain to each other the use of the verb forms in bold in sentences 1–10 using a–d from Exercise 5.

- We're not close friends – we're just **studying** French at the same evening class.  
*This sentence describes a situation in progress.*
- I **live** with Sarah, but each of us **has** our own group of friends that we hang out with.
- Olivia and I went on a trip to Peru together ten years ago and we've **kept up** with each other ever since.
- I wouldn't say we were friends really. We've **met** a couple of times at parties.
- Oh, **do you know** Tom? He's a good friend of mine too. We should all meet up some time.
- Jacob **always hangs around** when he's bored, but he **never comes round** when he's got something better to do.
- Kate **has always stood by** me in times of difficulty. If ever I'm in trouble, I **know** I can rely on her for help.
- Colin and I **have been teaching** at the same school for years. We get on very well, even though we **never really see** each other socially. I think I've been round to his house once.
- Barney and I **have known** each other since we were at school. It doesn't matter if we **haven't seen** each other for a while; we just seem to pick up where we left off.
- Jessica and I are going to go for a medieval-style wedding. Themed weddings **are becoming** very fashionable.

## Vocabulary friends: nouns and phrasal verbs

- 8 Work in pairs. What type of friend or person is each person talking about in Exercise 7? Match each sentence with a person from the box.

acquaintance   fair-weather friend  
fellow student   flatmate   girlfriend  
mutual friend   old friend  
travel companion   true friend  
workmate

- 9 Find the following phrasal verbs in the sentences in Exercise 7. Which ones contain two prepositions, rather than one? Discuss what each verb means.

- 1 verb with *get*
- 1 verb with *stand*
- 2 verbs with *hang*
- 2 verbs with *round*
- 3 verbs with *up*

- 10 Choose the correct phrasal verbs to complete these sentences.

- We come from different backgrounds but we \_\_\_\_\_ really well.
- We don't have to do anything special, like going to a show. It would just be nice to \_\_\_\_\_ each other for a bit.
- I made a lot of really good friends at university, but I haven't \_\_\_\_\_ with many of them.
- Why don't you \_\_\_\_\_ to my house for supper tonight?
- Some friends are great just to have a good time with, but real friends are the ones who \_\_\_\_\_ you when you're in trouble.
- I'm busy at six o'clock but we could \_\_\_\_\_ later, if you like. Say, eight thirty?

## Speaking

- 11 Work in pairs. Think about three of your friends. What kind of friend are they? Choose from the types in Exercise 8. Think also about how often you see these people and what things you do together. Discuss if your friendships are similar in any way.



## Grammar present tenses review

4 Look at the article. Find examples of the following.

- 1 two progressive changes (present continuous)

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 two everyday activities (present simple)

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 two recent events with an impact on the present (present perfect simple)

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 one event that started in the past and continues now (present perfect continuous)

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Complete the questions from a survey on friendship. Use present tenses.

- What person or people \_\_\_\_\_ (you / spend) most time with recently?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you / consider) this person or people to be close friends?
- How many really close friends \_\_\_\_\_ (you / have)?
- Would you say your friendship circle \_\_\_\_\_ (increase) or not?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you / make) any new friends in the past month?
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ (you / know) your closest friend?
- How often \_\_\_\_\_ (you / see) this person?
- Generally, what qualities \_\_\_\_\_ (you / look for) in a friend?

## Vocabulary friends: nouns and phrasal verbs

6 Look at the article again. Find the adjectives that collocate with these words. You may use the adjectives more than once.

- a(n) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ friendship
- a \_\_\_\_\_ bond
- a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ friend
- a \_\_\_\_\_ stranger
- a \_\_\_\_\_ acquaintance

7 Which word in each group does NOT collocate with the single word next to it? Cross out the word.

- a mutual *friend / respect / student / interest*
- a fellow *student / companion / scientist / traveller*
- a close *acquaintance / relationship / friend / relative*
- a *flat / faithful / travel* companion
- a(n) *odd / happy / blood* couple
- a(n) *fair-weather / old / passing* friend

8 Complete the sentences. Use the best collocation from Exercises 6 and 7.

- Travelling alone can have its advantages, but I always prefer to have a \_\_\_\_\_.
- They are a very \_\_\_\_\_: Kate is a highly-educated scientific researcher and Dan is a professional footballer who left school when he was fifteen.
- Relationships where one person thinks they are better than the other don't work, but in this case they have a great \_\_\_\_\_ for each other.
- Malcolm is probably my best friend. We were \_\_\_\_\_ at university.
- I don't really consider Ann to be a \_\_\_\_\_: she's the mother of my brother-in-law's wife.

9 Complete the phrasal verbs. Choose the correct option.

- I used to hang *out with / around* John a lot at college because we were both keen swimmers.
- I'm meeting *with / up with* a group of colleagues on Friday. Would you like to join us?
- I don't get *off / on* very well with my new boss. He's really difficult to work with.
- Do you want to come *across / round* to my house and watch the football? It starts at 8 p.m.
- It's very important to stand *by / with* your friends when they are in trouble.
- Some people are very good at keeping *up with / on with* their old friends. I've lost touch with practically all the people I knew at college.
- Jane and I were friends at school, but when we met we just seemed to pick *off / up* from where we left off 20 years ago.
- It's your 30th birthday next month. What kind of celebration are you going *for / after*?