

# How to Make Friends

Want a key to being popular? Want to know the one thing most people admire in a friend? Here it is-- the willingness to listen. A good listener makes a good friend.

Good listeners do more than just be quiet while others are talking, although that is the very first step. Good listeners also show how interested they are by the expression on their faces. They ask questions that help their friends get their feelings into words. They often quietly repeat what their friend has just said so both can reflect on how it sounds.

Practice at listening is as important as practice on the baseball field. The more you practice the better you get and the more people there are who will want to be your friends.

Friends are people who will try to be patient when they feel impatient and for friendship's sake find patience.  
Friends are people who will try to cheer you when they feel sad and for friendship's sake find cheer.  
Friends are people who will try to love you when they feel unloving and for friendship's sake find love.

## THE RICH VARIETY OF PEOPLE

Some people are like wheels -- They don't work unless they're pushed  
Some people are like trailers -- They have to be pulled!  
Some people are like kites -- Always up in the air, and if you don't keep a string on them they fly away!  
Some people are like canoes -- They have to be paddled.  
Some people are like footballs -- You never know which way they are going to bounce next!  
Some people are like balloons -- Always puffed up and you never know when they are going to blow up!  
Some people are like a flat tire -- They have to be jacked up!  
Some people are like a good watch -- Pure gold, open faced, always on time, dependable, quietly busy and just full of good works!

A SET OF RELATIONSHIPS Elizabeth O'Conner, in Journey Inward, Journey Outward, speaks of our need for three types of relationships. We need those who are further along the way, who give us hints of the next step. We need those who are our peers, with whom we share mutual discovery. We need those who are not so advanced, friends we can nourish and sustain.

## THE BEATITUDE OF FRIENDSHIP

Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but, above all, the power of giving out of one's self and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another.

-Thomas Hughes

## To My Friend

God sends each person  
into this world  
with a special message  
to deliver,  
with a special song  
to sing for others,  
with a special act of love  
to bestow.  
No one else can  
speak your message,  
or sing your song,  
or offer your act of love.  
These have been entrusted  
only to you.

John Powell, S.J.

## PLANNED FRIENDSHIP

What made us friends in the long ago  
When first we met . . . well I think I know . . .  
The best in me and the best in you  
Hailed each other because they knew  
That always and ever since time began  
Our being friends was a part of God's plan.