

One friend or many?



Last month's survey asked if you'd prefer to have one close friend or lots of acquaintances. As always, there's no right or wrong answer and your replies were fascinating. Over 87 percent of you said, "one close friend" while about 13 percent said, "many acquaintances." Here are some of your comments.

One close friend:

- I would rather have one close friend that I can count on day or night in any circumstance — to know that someone is there.
- One close friend. Lots of acquaintances don't truly get to know you, and it seems do not actually care about your well-being.
- I prefer one close friend that I can spend quality time [with] and enjoy togetherness! Too many friends equal too much work and less time to spend with one another.
- Having a best friend is such a joy and a blessing! I have had a best friend since 3rd grade (we're now 64)!
- Close friends allow us to confide when burdens are too great. And close friends feel free to correct us when we need it.
- I'm an introvert and value a few deep friendships over knowing more people casually.
- One or a few close friends who are supportive and encouraging are more valuable, who I can trust and share my problems without being judged.
- I like one-on-one conversations with a close friend. You can talk about personal things and go deep into the conversation. Having one close friend is a better way of having a "real" close friendship instead of a superficial relationship. To me, it's MUCH more rewarding. I like to have deep conversations and get to really know someone.

- I want someone who will be invested [in] me — just as much as I will be invested in them. I can look at my friend and know how their day is going. This comes with time and observation.
- I look for the true heart in my close friends; ones with depth of character, spirit, courage, compassion, strength, intellect, and an unbreakable moral compass.
- Close friends have a connection. Acquaintances are people you know.

Many acquaintances:

- My BFF moved across the country for work, and I struggled to fill the gap in my life with other friends. You need more than one friend.
- Just in case you [cannot] say something to one friend you have someone else to say it to.
- I have one close friend. She decided to try a new career which ended us up in different counties, different schedules, different lives. She's still my best friend but we never see each other. And now I have no one to hang around with.
- One friend may not always be available when you need someone.

And, finally, there was this response: "Can't I have both!?!?"

Thank you for sharing! We look forward to hearing from you in our next survey!