Introduction to being a pen pal
What do you think makes someone a good friend?

3 Characteristics of a Good Friend

**SHARING**
A good friend shares memories, cultures, and stories with you.

**LISTENING**
A good friend listens to problems, jokes, ideas, and much more!

**TALKING**
When you talk out your ideas and emotions it helps you grow and learn new things.

Describe a good friend one sentence
What do you think makes a good pen pal friend?
Describe what makes a pen pal good friend.

A good pen pal friend:

1. **Reads and Replies**
   A pen pal friend reads, and replies to your letter, as soon as they can.

2. **Shares their perspectives**
   A pen pal friend shares their life, thoughts, culture, and country with you.
**Pen Pal Friend**

You are communicating through letters and computers.

You cannot see your pen pal friends face when you write to them.

Your pen pal friend might be from a different country or culture.

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**School Friend**

You communicate in person, over the phone, and on the computer.

When you are talking to your friend, you can see your friends face.

Your friend is part of your community.
Because you can not see your pen pal friend in person, there are questions you should consider before talking to them.

3 Questions:

Are there any **sensitive topics** that may upset them?

Do they have the same **background** (religion, ethnicity, nationality) as you?

Do you know much about their **culture**?

If you are unsure about the answer to **any** of these questions, it is best to first **research**.
Topics to research

1. Current Events in your pen pal friends country
2. Major Historical Events in your pen pal’s country
3. Cultural differences in your pen pals country

Checkout these sites: www.history.com / kids.nationalgeographic.com / www.sqooltube.com

www.storypal.co Storypal, Global Penpal Platform
Dear Pen Pal Friend,

My name is Aurora, and I live in Morocco. I am currently 13 years old. I am in middle school, and I am excited to talk to you.

My hobbies include playing violin and piano. I enjoy video games as well. What about you? My interests include playing the violin. I also want to learn to develop. I have two brothers. I have dogs well. My brothers are huge Marvel Comic fans, so they named the dogs. The male is Loki and the female is Sigyn. I like to eat at my favorite restaurant Barometre Marrakech. We have family in France, and on holidays we go visit them. They live in Angers, have you heard of it?

I want to know more about you. I just had my birthday on January 16th. I had a lot of fun! My friends brought me cupcakes. Have you ever had a cupcake? What are you learning about in school? Are you reading any good books right now? What do you like to do for fun?

Talk soon,

Aurora
Types of questions you can ask

1. ...what about you?
   I play basketball on the weekends. **What about you?**
   I want to become an engineer. **What about you?**
   I play video games with my brothers. **What about you?**

2. ...what is...?
   My favorite animal is a tiger. **What is your favorite animal?**
   Today it is raining here. **What is the weather like in your country?**
   Kimchi is usually made with cabbage. **What is usually inside a burrito?**
Hey Angela,

It is good to hear from you again. I hope all is well.

My favorite meal is Ramen!! It is a Korean hot noodle. I can’t overeat because if I overeat, I have a stomachache. What is your favorite food? I have lunch at school!

Sometimes our lunch is delicious, and our lunch is occasionally bad, what about your school lunch? Do you have lunch at school? School keeps me busy.

My classes start at 8:40 am and end at 4:40 pm. Other high schools end at 9:00 pm! I’m happy to end the classes early. I’m curious about when your classes start and end.

Sincerely,

Tania

Hey Tania,

I am doing good. We have school lunch. It is fine. I hope you are good.

Your Friend,

Angela
Hey Angela,

It is good to hear from you again. I hope all is well.

My favorite meal is Ramen!! It is a Korean hot noodle. I can’t overeat because if I overeat, I get stomachaches.

What is your favorite food? I have lunch at school! Sometimes our lunch is delicious, and our lunch is occasionally bad, what about your school lunch?

Do you have lunch at school? School keeps me busy. My classes start at 8:40 am and end at 4:40 pm. Other high schools end at 9:00 pm! I’m happy to end the classes early. I’m curious about when your classes start and end.

Sincerely,

Tania

Hey Tania!

I am glad to hear from you. I am well. Thanks for asking.

I have had ramen before, but I am not sure if it is the same ramen you are mentioning. My favorite food is pizza. I love pizza so much. I wish I could eat it every day, but my mom won’t let me.

I have lunch at school too, but my mom packs my lunches. I usually eat leftovers from the night before. It is not that glamorous.

School keeps me busy also. My school is similar to yours, but it is from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Why are some schools open until 9:00 pm? That is too long. I am happy you get out class early also. I like my school a lot. I am at the top of my classes. I come to school on a school bus. How do you get to school?

Best,

Angela
Hey Tania,

I am doing good. We have school lunch. It is fine. I hope you are good.

Your Friend,

Angela

Hey Tania,

I am glad to hear from you. I am well. I have had ramen before, but I am not sure if it is the same ramen you are talking about. My favorite food is pizza. I love pizza so much. I wish I could eat it every day, but my mom won't let me. I have lunch at school too, but my mom usually packs my lunches. I usually eat leftovers from the night before. It is not that glamorous.

School keeps me busy too. My school is similar to yours, but it is from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Why are some schools open until 9:00 pm? That is too long. I am happy you get out class early too. I like my school a lot. I am at the top of my class. I come to school on a school bus. How do you get to school?

Your Friend,

Angela
Tips on how to respond to a letter:

1. Read the letter and **count all the questions** your pen pal asked.
2. Answer all the questions you can in your reply.
3. Bring up **new topics** to talk about.
1. Research your pen pals culture!
2. Letters should have
   - Greetings
   - Talk about yourself
   - Ask questions
   - Say goodbye
   - Write 5 to 10 sentences

3. Easy questions to ask are “what about you” and “what is” questions.

4. How to respond to a letter
   - Answer all the questions asked
   - Bring up new topics

I like comic books. What about you?

My favorite animal is a rabbit. What is yours?
Practice writing your introduction letter!