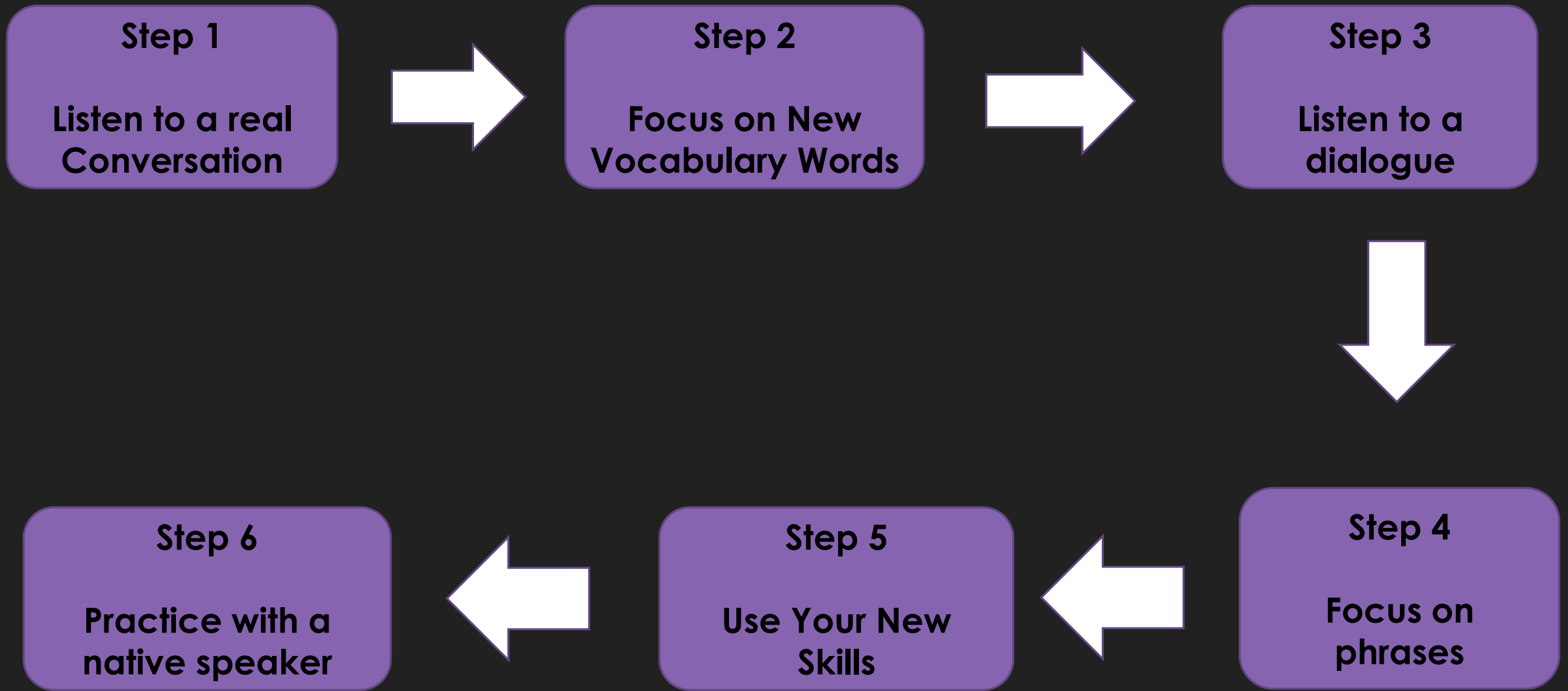




How to Describe Your Friends in English

A Vocabulary Lesson

Our Method



Step 1: What Do You Look for in a Friend?



Please listen to Audio Step 1 –What Do You Look for in a Friend?

In this conversation, listen to three native speakers talk about friendship and what it means to them.

Please view Transcript Step 1- What Do You Look for in a Friend

Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

**To have a
bond with
someone**

**To point out
one's blind
spots**

**To keep in
touch**

**To check in
with
someone**

**To go way
back**

**Bubbly
personality**

**To have a
bond with
someone**

Expression



To be close with someone, to have a close relationship

I have a close bond with my baby

**To point out
one's blind
spots**

Expression



**To show someone problems or dangers that they would
not be able to see on their own**

***My friend always points out my blind spots and I
appreciate that.***

To keep in
touch

Expression



To stay in contact with someone by phone, email,
letters

*I still keep in touch with my friends from college. We
write cards every year.*

**To check in
with someone**

Phrasal Verb



To stay connected and make sure they are ok

I check in with my friends by phone every week.

To go way
back

Expression



To have a lot of history in your friendship

*We have been friends since we were 10. We go way
back.*

Bubbly personality

Adjective



To be upbeat, positive, and often in a good mood

My friend Sarah has a bubbly personality.

Step 3: Tell Me About Your Closest Friend

In this audio you will hear one native speaker talking about her closest friend.

Listen to Audio Steps 3 and 4- Tell Me About Your Closest Friend



Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – Tell Me About Your Closest Friend

- "...we were close back then but we don't keep in touch anymore."
- "We had a great bond at the time but then we graduated."
- "We would always check in with each other and we kept in touch."
- "He had a bubbly personality."
- "...he was always around to point out my blind spots."
- "...we grew up together so we go way back."

Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

Click on the file "Say It Another Way"

Step 5: Use Your New Skills

**To have a bond
with someone**

**To point out
one's blind
spots**

**To keep in
touch**

**To check in
with someone**

**To go way
back**

**Bubbly
personality**

A: So tell me about your friend John. What's he like?

B: Well we __1__ (have known each other for a long time) and he's a great guy.

A: I met him last week and he seems to have a really __2__ personality (upbeat)

B: Do you guys __3__ (stay connected) while you're living on different sides of the country?

A: Yes we do. We email all of the time. We have quite a __4__ (friendship)

Answers to Quiz Step 5

- 1-go way back
- 2- bubbly
- 3- keep in touch
- 4- bond

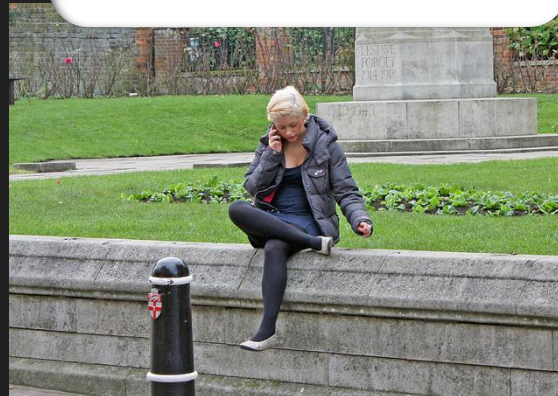
Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards

Bubbly personality



To point out one's blind spots

To check in with someone

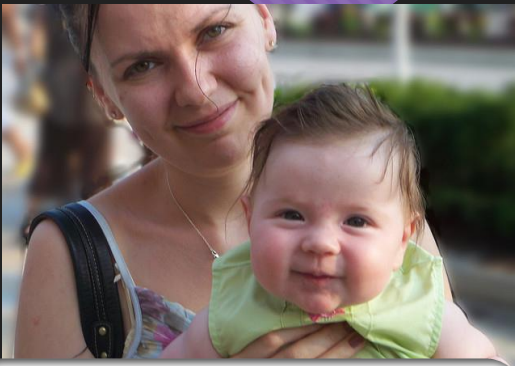


To go way back



To keep in touch

To have a bond with someone



Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Tell us about your closest friend. Describe his personality. Does he/she have a **bubbly personality**? **Do you go way back** or did you meet more recently? Describe how and where you met. Why do you think you became good friends?
- How do you **keep in touch** with this friend? Do you prefer to email or call or to meet each other in person? How often do you communicate?

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) So tell me about your closest friend. What's she like? Does she have a ____ (bubbly) personality?

B: Yeah her name is Michelle and we _____ (go way back).

A: Oh that's cool. It's nice to have an old friend. Do you _____ (keep in touch)?

B: Sure, we text all of the time.

Answers to Bonus Conversation 1

Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) So tell me about your closest friend. What's she like? Does she have an upbeat personality?*

B: Yeah her name is Michelle and we have known each other forever.

A: *Oh that's cool. It's nice to have an old friend. Do you stay connected?*

B: Sure, we text all of the time.

Step 6: Practice with a Native

- Are your friends good at pointing out your **blind spots**? Please give an example of a blind spot that a friend has pointed out to you in the past. Do your friends tell you the truth even if it hurts?
- Think of another good friend. Why do you think you **have a close bond** with this person. What is it about their personality that makes you two get along so well? Do your personalities complement each other? Can you learn a lot from each other? Is it important for this friend to **check in** when you haven't communicated in a few weeks?

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Are you good at _____ (pointing out your friends' blind spots)?

B: Well I never want to hurt my friends so I avoid saying anything if I think it will hurt them.

A: Really? Even if you _____ (have a close bond)? Isn't it better to be honest so that they can grow?

B: Yeah I suppose I should get better at that.

Answers to Bonus Conversation 2

Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) Are you good at showing your friends what they are missing.*

B: Well I never want to hurt my friends so I avoid saying anything if I think it will hurt them.

A: *Really? Even if you are close? Isn't it better to be honest so that they can grow?*

B: Yeah I suppose I should get better at that.

Additional Conversation Questions

- How are your friendships different now than they were when you were a kid? What has changed in terms of the qualities that you look for in a friend?
- Have you ever lost a friend? What happened? What are some reasons for ending a friendship.
- What is a “fair weather friend”? Do you have any “fair weather friends” or have you had any in the past?
- Is getting along with others something that we naturally know how to do or do we learn it during childhood? Do you think that you are strong in this area?

Additional Conversation Questions

- *"I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light."*
— *Helen Keller*
 - Please describe your thoughts on this quote. Do you agree or disagree? Do you have any experiences to share as they relate to this quote?

Credits

1. Mother and baby: <http://bit.ly/1ksoMRi>
2. Blind spot: <http://bit.ly/1rdljMR>
3. Keep in touch: <http://bit.ly/1tMz0p0>
4. Check in: <http://bit.ly/1qDi6U7>
5. Go way back: <http://bit.ly/1oE5vOa>
6. Bubbly: <http://bit.ly/1kssMkL>
7. Steps 3 and 4: <http://bit.ly/1zFaerv>
8. cover: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sfj/1505682526/in/faves-95934042@N00/>