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| **Why has being a friend become so difficult?**  By Rachel Tanner  Now and again I have the feeling that a part of me is missing somehow, like something has fallen out of my pocket but I cannot remember where or when I lost it, or even what it was.  Then, weeks later I actually talk to someone else and find myself in an old-fashioned face-to-face *chat*, and I suddenly realise what I have been missing – human interaction and conversation.  As a kid meeting and talking to friends was the most normal thing in the world. We did it all the time, every day. I had all kinds of friends in and outside of school, not to mention siblings, neighbours and cousins. As I got older and real friendships developed over time it was more than just hanging out or *catching up*, and became more of a true connection, relationships which grew the more time we *committed*.  At some point *though*, and I couldn’t say exactly when, things changed. On the one hand, we now actually communicate more and with more people, often at the same time on various platforms or in chat groups. Still, it has become more a case of *firing off* jokes, pictures, and questions or *arranging* meet-ups and reunions that never happen, rather than actually talking.  Although the world is connected, it is also disconnected. Communication is faster, but is also emptier. We scroll down lists and connect with people almost *at random*, text back and forth, and then end *abruptly* when something more interesting or important finally pulls us away from the phone. We no longer need to leave the house to be entertained. Netflix has our back on that regard, and has become our new best friend, always there when we need it most. However, actual meet-ups have *suffered* due to the new cancel culture, as more of us cancel dates with friends for some serious *binge* *watching* on the sofa.  After all, if you don’t actually have to cancel the appointment face-to-face, you don’t feel quite so guilty. A sad face emoji is easier to deal with than *genuine* disappointment.  On the flip side, we also have to accept being *stood up* for the latest must-see series.  I am often close to saying goodbye to social media once and for all, but I worry how my friends will contact me. However, I know I really needn’t worry about that. After all, those people who really *value* our friendship will always find a way. I just hope I’ll do the same. | = Unterhaltung  = etw. aufholen  = widmen  = jedoch  = abfeuern  = vereinbaren  = zufällig  = plötzlich  = leiden  = eine Folge nach der anderen anschauen  = ehrlich  = versetzt sein worden  = wertschätzen |

1. ******Reading comprehension I**

Scan the QR code or follow [this link](https://learningapps.org/display?v=pft57bb8j21) to do an online reading comprehension on the text.



1. **Reading comprehension II**

Please answer the following questions in German.

1. Inwiefern hat sich Freundschaft laut Rachel Tanner verändert?

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1. Warum passiert es heutzutage häufiger, dass Verabredungen einfach abgesagt werden?

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