

Relationships: Friends and Acquaintances

**Intercultural Communication
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To start with...

Have a look at the following quotations:

1. “The only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is to be one.” (Friendship, 1841)
2. “A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud.” (Friendship, 1841)
3. “It is the worst solitude, to have no true friendships.” (The Advancement of Learning, 1605)
4. “A false friend is more dangerous than an open enemy.” (A letter of advice to the Duke of Buckingham, 1616)
5. “Have no friends not equal to yourself.” (‘Analects’ by Confucius, Chinese philosopher and teacher of ethics, c.550—c. 478 BC)
6. “People who need people are the luckiest people in the world” (‘People who need people’ a song by Bob Merrill, 1964)
7. “Enemies publish themselves. They declare war. The friend never declares his love.” (Henry David Thoreau, 1856)

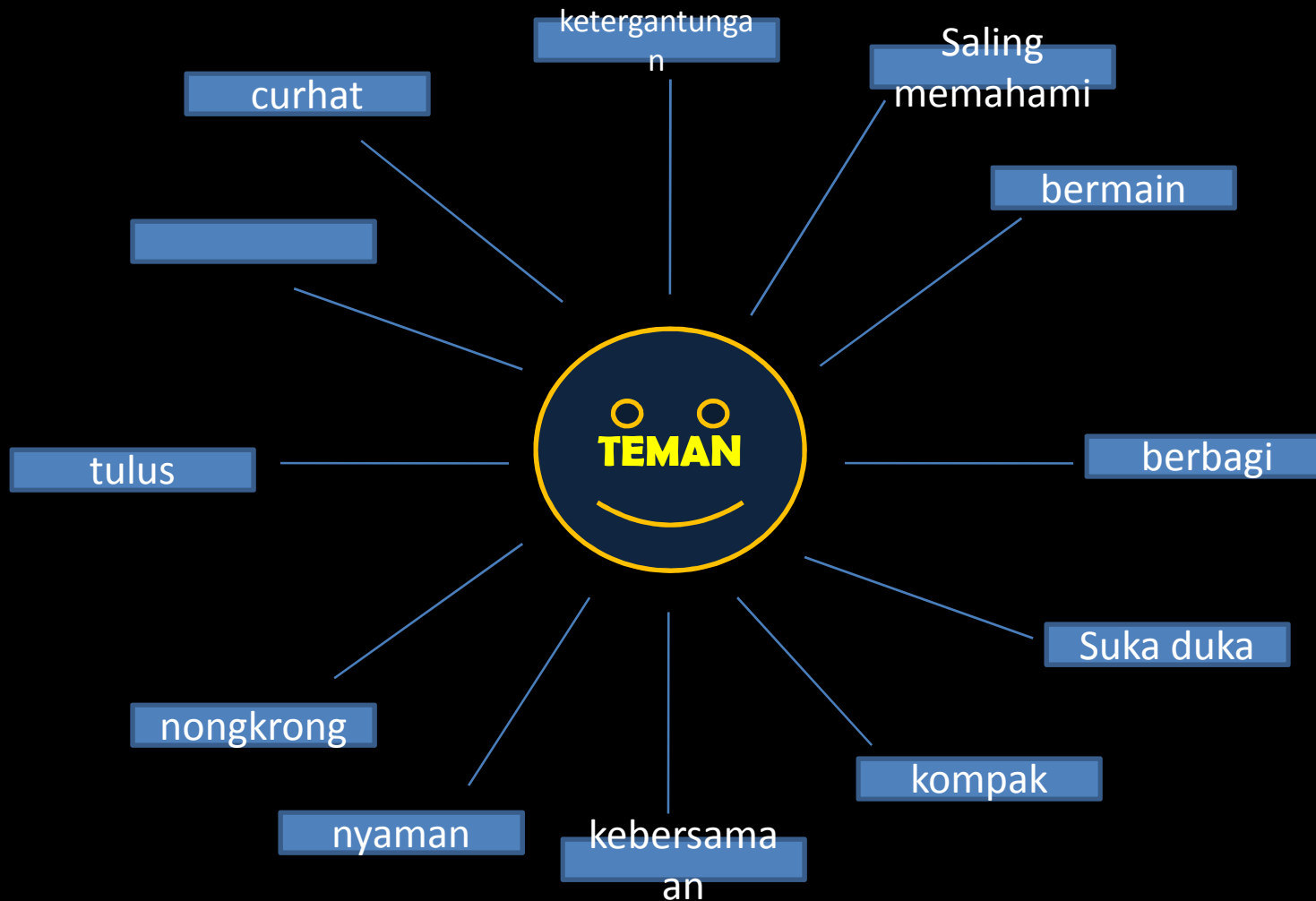
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- Make some sentences by using “teman” in Indonesian:
- Budi adalah teman saya.
- Kekasih bisa datang dan pergi, tapi teman selalu ada di hati.
- Jika kau ingin mengetahui seseorang maka lihatlah temannya.
- Ia adalah teman semasa SMA.
- Kemaren saya meminjamkan uang kepada teman saya.
- Ia kan temanku, kok gitu?
- Hari ini saya dan teman saya datang ke kampus terlambat.
- Dia cuman teman biasa.
- Teman adalah sebuah dorongan saat aku berhenti, sebuah penunjuk jalan pada saat aku tersesat.
- Lebih baik punya seribu teman daripada punya satu musuh.
- Teman adalah seseorang yang tidak hanya datang saat dia membutuhkan, tetapi saat kita juga butuh.
- Teman sejati adalah seseorang yang selalu ada saat kita membutuhkan
- Teman yang baik adalah yang bisa menjaga temannya sendiri.

continued...

- Make some sentences by using “friend” in English

Words related to “teman” in Indonesian



To think about...

- Do you think people from different countries with different cultural backgrounds will see the concept and the practice of friendship in the same way? Why?
- Are there any requirements needed before someone deserves to be called a friend?

Relationships

- A relationship (particularly of people) can be defined as connections between at least two people which are associated in a couple of ways: friend, birth or marriage, family, love, business or profession, etc.

Friends and Acquaintances

- Oxford dictionary defines:
 - A friend as “a person one knows and likes, usually somebody who is not a member of one’s family.”
 - An Acquaintance as “a person whom one knows but who is not a close friend.”
- How do Americans define the word “friend”?

Friendliness vs. Friendship

- Friendliness is more about behavior, which is characterized by smiling, chattiness, and warmth.
- Friendship is a relationship in which people know, like and trust each other.
- So,
 - If I smile at you, it doesn't necessarily mean that I want to make friend with you or I like you.
 - If I am warm, just think that I try to be friendly.

Diversity of relationships

- In relation to gender:
 - Men and women can socialize relatively freely and develop a variety of relationship
 - Men and women can live together before marriage to see how compatible they are
 - Same sex relationships has become something common in some states
- Status:
 - Single and married people (even of the opposite sex) can be close friends without being romantically involved
- Practical reasons:
 - Some people/couples can live together because they feel they are compatible as roommates or housemates
- Marriage:
 - Remarriage has no stigma in the United States

The “Singles Scene”

- It is related to “individualism”: a cultural value that favors freedom of action for each individual person without regarding what other people do.
- The “Single Scenes” is the phenomenon of a significant increase of single people. Those people tend to delay marriage for a couple of reasons: career, emancipation, education, etc.
- Marriage is seen more as a choice rather than a necessity.

Mobility and Friendship

- One of the cultural values of many Americans is “change”. Change is healthy.
- To make some better changes people often have to move, to be mobile, pursuing better life.
- They move for several reasons: change jobs, get married, have children, etc.
- Therefore, changing the “circles of friends” becomes one of the strategies to survive.

Cross-Cultural Friendships

- What happens when people from different countries and cultural backgrounds try to make friends?
- Misunderstanding and conflict may happen during the process of making friends.
- Many foreigners think that American friendliness is an offer of friendship. In fact, it's not always the case.

Cross-Cultural Expectation for Friendship

- What do you usually expect from your friend?
- American value of friendship: “Valuing friendships, but still respecting privacy and independence”
- This value for many foreigners may be seen negative. Different expectations on friendships across cultures may create misunderstanding and can potentially lead to conflicts.
 - An example: giving attention or visiting a friend when s/he is ill

Before finishing off...

- To understand relationships across cultures means to understand the values and expectations underlying them.
- One interesting question to take home:
Do you think people need an agreement to become or to make friends?

References:

- Levine, D.R. and Adelman, M.B. 1993. *Beyond Language*. Cross-cultural communication. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall Inc.