B2 全场景覆盖表达 口语主题陈述——人物类

Verb + Noun Collocations (verb + friends)

- become friends
- make friends
- remain friends
- stay friends
- break up with friends

Adjective + Noun Collocations (adjective + friend)

- best friend
- close friend
- true friend
- firm friend
- childhood friend
- school friend
- lifelong friend
- fair-weather friend
- mutual friend
- toxic friend

Adjective + Noun Collocations (adjective + friendship)

- close friendship
- long-standing friendship
- (ever)lasting friendship
- loving friendship
- intimate friendship
- strong friendship

Verb + Noun Collocations (verb + friendship)

- strike up a friendship
- develop a friendship
- build up a friendship
- form a friendship
- break up a friendship
- destroy a friendship
- renew a friendship
- rekindle a friendship

Useful phrases

- a friend for life
- a circle of friends / friend circle
- a friend in need (is a friend indeed)
- friendship bonds/ties
- in the spirit of friendship
- a token of friendship

- There are 3 of us in my family.
- I have 2 siblings, an elder brother, and an elder sister.
- I am an only child.
- My close family (my partner and children)
- My direct or **immediate family** (parents, grandparents, siblings, children)
- My extended family (my direct family plus uncles, aunties, and cousins, as well as in-laws).

Romance

- First date = a planned romantic meeting
- Go out with someone = have a romantic relationship
- Break up = the relationships end
- Serious relationship = important romantic relationship
- Get to know = become friends with
- Get engaged = to decide to get married

Marriage

- Get married to someone
- To be married = to be man and wife
- TO have a good marriage = have a good relationship
- A wedding = a formal ceremony to get married
- The wedding reception = the wedding party
- To go on a honeymoon = a holiday just after getting married

Divorce

- Leave someone = to separate or divorce from someone
- Get divorced = The marriage officially ends

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FAMILY

Do you spend a lot of time with your family?

- Yes, I do. I like to spend quality time with them
- Luckily yes, I do. During this lockdown period, I am with them
 24/7.
- No, I don't, I am miles away from them actually, due to the lockdown.
- Not really, I work in a different city, so I don't get to see them much.

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FAMILY

Spending time with your family or your friends

- It depends, if I am going to a bar, then I'd like to hang out with friends, but if I am going to see a movie, I'd rather go with family
- I don't spend as much time with my family as I should, because I live abroad, but I would like to see them more frequently
- I like both equally, I tend to spend an equal amount of time with both friends and family
- Probably more with my family, I think blood is thicker than
 water

IDIOMS ABOUT FAMILY

- Like father, like son
- e.g. People often use the phrase "like father, like son" to refer to family resemblance.
- It runs in the family = many people in the family have this trait/talent e.g.
- e.g. Blonde hair runs in the family. Artistic talent runs in the family.
- I followed in my dad's footsteps
- e.g. I took over my Dad's business and followed in his footsteps.

IDIOMS ABOUT FAMILY

- Blood is thicker than water = Family is more important than friends
- She's the breadwinner = She earns the money
- e.g. My mother is the breadwinner in our family
- She brings home the bacon = She earns the money
- The black sheep of the family = the naughty/bad one in the family
- Get on like a house on fire = get on extremely well with someone

TOPIC: PEOPLE

You can say:

- Who (they are).
- How (you know or met them)
- Feel (how you feel about them)

TOPIC: PEOPLE

When talking about who they are, you can use adjectives like these

Personality

- extremely friendly, gregarious, out-going, a real extrovert, a bit of a character,
- timid, quite shy, a bit of an introvert, a little withdrawn,

Appearance

- plump, a little on the large side, slightly overweight
- quite slim, fairly petite,
- rather tall, a bit taller than me,

PERSONALITY WORDS

good-hearted

- having a kindly generous disposition
- She is one of the good-hearted persons who helped the victims

glass-half full person

- person views the situation optimistically or hopefully
- He is a glass-half full person, which inspires me the most no matter how hard the situation we are facing.

extrovert

somebody who is confident and outgoing

introvert

• a shy, reticent, and typically self-centered person

PERSONALITY WORDS

rational

- able to think sensibly and logically
- A normal, rational person can believe the evidence of their senses.

impulsive

- tending to act as a result of sudden feelings or desires, without thinking about consequences
- He is too impulsive to be a responsible mayor.

trustworthy

• He is trustworthy, keeps his word, does what is right.

optimistic

• He was always optimistic, even when things were at their worst.

PERSONALITY WORDS

stubborn

• unwilling to change one's ideas even when there are good reasons to do so

aggressive

tending to act as a result of sudden feelings or desires, without thinking about consequences

• behaving in an angry, violent way

pessimistic

- tending to believe that a bad outcome is the most likely, or interpreting something in the most negative way
- I, for one, am pessimistic about any change in legislation in the foreseeable future.

egoistic

- having a very high opinion of yourself and interest only in yourself
- Humans are egoistic of nature, this is because the will to be alive drives us all.

TOPIC: PEOPLE

When talking about how you know or met them, you can talk about their job, role and relationship

- She's my
- boss
- ex-boss
- colleague
- workmate
- classmate

TOPIC: PEOPLE

When talking about how you feel about them, you can use expressions like these

- I was excited to see them
- I was ecstatic to be with them
- I was thrilled to meet them again
- I was delighted to spend time with them
- I was over the moon to see them again

人物类常见问题

• Do you think it is difficult for people to stay in contact with friends?

No, not really, I mean with all the technology available today, there's really no reason to lose contact with someone unless you really don't want to stay in touch with that person. Maybe it isn't always possible to visit all your friends in person on a regular basis or as often as you did in the past, but you can send an email, text or videochat with them as often as you want, it's easy.

• What is the most common way to communicate with friends?

• Generally, I think it's by texting each other. It seems to be the most popular way nowadays; it's easy, instant and in most cases free. It's certainly how I keep in touch with most of my friends on a regular basis. Everyone has a cell phone so no matter where they are you can send them a quick text and stay in touch. If they're busy when they receive it then they can reply later when they're free - that's one of the main reasons it's better than actually calling, you never have to worry about if the other person is occupied when you send them a text.

What is the importance of friends?

• Well, speaking generally, having friends is good because you can share things with them, not just activities and events, but you can share your thoughts and feelings with them. Sometimes you can help each other in a bad situation or simply just be there to support them in whatever they are doing. Nobody likes feeling alone so having friends is very important for most people.

Would you like to have a few very good friends or a lot of just friends?

• Actually, I don't have a lot of friends - but I do have a few really good, close friends that I spend time with and talk to all the time. We are almost like family. I've always preferred to make really good long-term friendships with people rather than try and be friends with everyone.

What do you think are the most important qualities for friends to have?

• Well, I quite am picky on choosing my friends. Personally, I believe they tend to have common interests and possess similar personalities. A great proof to this idea is the saying that goes "birds with the same feathers, flock together". Empathy and openness are the first two steps to grow the friendship and it matures once friends start forgiving each other's faults. Moreover, trustworthiness is a core of a long-lasting and faithful friendship. No-one wants a friend they think might stab them in the back someday.

• Why do you think people might care more about friends than family?

Well, possibly because for many people it's their friends that they spend most time with and share more activities with than with their family. For example, my family lives in another part of the country, so I don't see them very often, but I generally see my friends all the time. I share more of my life with my friends than my family - but I wouldn't say I care more about them than my family, but I do spend more time with them and talk to them more and do more things with them than I do with my family. I suppose some people might end up caring more about their friends if they become more important than their family in their everyday life or if they are not particularly close with their family.

• If you had a problem, would you go to your friends or family? Why? Can you give me an example of such situation?

- First, I'd go to my friends, because they are closer to me and they know me better. They would be most likely to be able to help me or give me advice rather than my family because they would understand me and the problem better.
- Not long ago I was in a relationship and I wasn't convinced it was a good thing in the long run, and I mentioned my doubts to two of my friends who know me extremely well and they know what I think is important in terms of relationships; they also know me very well as a person and can tell me when I'm just being stupid about something or when it's really not the best thing for me, so I trust their judgement on such things. Anyway, after discussing it with them separately, they both made some comments which were a little different but basically similar and it helped me to get some things straight in my own mind about what I should do about the problem.

• Is family important in your country?

• Well, people in my country believe that family comes first and they put their family ahead of anything else. They would do anything for the family and I am proud that family bonding in my country is quite strong. • How has the size of the family changed in the last few decades in your country?

• From my experience, I can say that my grandfather had an extended family and people at that time used to live together with close relatives. As far as I have heard, their forefathers also live in a joint family and the number of family members was sometimes more than twenty. However, the trend of living in an extended family has changed remarkably in cities where most of the families are nuclear in nature. The villages in my country still have large families who live together but the number is shrinking day by day.

What role do grandparents play in the family in your country?

• Grandparents in a family are like the pillars of virtue and they play an important role. They maintain a balance for the family by nurturing the old traditions and values and teach how to adhere to the roots. With the increasing number of both working parents, grandparents often look after the children. They often advise the rest of the family time to time regarding family matters as they have more experience and thus their advice often saves us from taking wrong decisions. From this sense, they act like reliable mentors.

• Why is the number of joint families decreasing in modern time?

• I believe the city-centric life which is highly competitive and busy has diminished the concept of joint family and created the nuclear family.

Besides the urban influence, ever-increasing inflation, our affection towards a materialistic life and less inclination towards the traditions and values have ended up making our own nuclear family.

In what ways do parents want their children to help them (around the home)?

• I suppose it depends on how old the child is, I can think of a couple of examples; traditionally parents might encourage their children to help do some simple chores around the home such as helping to prepare for meals. This might include helping with some simple food preparation tasks or putting the plates, knives, forks and spoons and other things on the table. Also, parents usually try and get their children to tidy their rooms once they are old enough to manage it, or they will teach younger children to at least put their toys away after playing with them.

How can parents teach their children the value of helping others?

• There are many children's stories about helping, sometimes it's friends helping each other, sometimes it's animals, like in many Disney movies. It can be difficult for parents to try and explain why people help each other to a young child, but through stories and movies children can see quite quickly the advantages of having friends, helping people and many other aspects of life. Parents should show their children that helping is a good thing in as many ways as possible, through their own actions, through stories and other examples.

• What are the advantages of having an elderly person at home?

• Old people are very knowledgeable so the obvious advantage is that you'll have somebody to consult whenever there's a problem. As they are very experienced, they can give advice on all aspects of life including work, friendship and love.

• Is there anything that older people should learn from the younger generation?

• Of course yes. Young generations are often more familiar with the latest trends and technology; therefore, they can keep the elderly updated on these things. For example, my mom didn't know how to use Wechat at the beginning and I spent a few hours helping her create an account then connect with her friends. Now she is very active on Wechat, even more, active than I am.

• Why do old people today live longer than in the past?

• Because of the improvement in healthcare and overall living standards. In the past we didn't have enough food to eat, now we have more than enough food and better healthcare. Although there are new diseases that didn't exist in the past overall life expectancy has increased. • Which personality types do you think are less likely to suffer from stress or anxiety?

• Based on my personal experience, I would rather say being an optimist is vital, since

stress and anxiety both result from negative thinking. Thus, having a generally positive attitude, one is more likely to live a stress-free life. Moreover, it is crucial to develop resistance and resilience to all the inevitable struggles we face throughout our lifetime.

• Is attractiveness a quality worthwhile aiming for?

• I would disagree with this. Although an attractive appearance might give one a head start over others in some ways, it's still the inner beauty that really sets a person apart. Unfortunately, it seems that many people pay much more attention to how they look than actually needed. It is not rare to see a poor male or female starving themselves to death on a crash diet so that they can lose as much weight as possible. I am not convinced this can be any good for health or consciousness.

人物类口语主题陈述

Describe someone you like in your family. You should say:

- who he/she is
- what personality he/she has
- why do you like this person
- and why you find it useful.

- We all have our favorite personalities who we respect and love from the bottom of our hearts. Personally, I'm going to talk about my father as he has been a major influence in my life.
- Physically, he is a good-looking man with a youthful appearance, quite tall with an average body build and his pointed nose compliments his dark hair. He's hard-working and seems to get on well with everybody.
- Furthermore, he is a truly patient person, especially in dealing with obstacles in our family, although occasionally he may be strict. Undeniably, he is a glass-half-full person, which inspires me the most no matter how hard are situations we are facing. Lastly, he is my happy pill with a good sense of humor and self-assurance, making me smile despite certain challenges I encounter. Hopefully, I' ve inherited some of these traits.
- Definitely, he is the best father in the world, and I do love him for a great number of reasons. To start with, he is my life inspiration, for I have witnessed how he stood still in the midst of the storm for our family. Secondly, he is my role model, since he is willing to sacrifice his own happiness for our own sake. So, if I was here to choose between my father and what this world has to offer, I definitely wouldn't hesitate to pick my dad.

Describe a person you know who does something well. You should say

- who this person is
- how you know this person
- what they do well
- and explain why you think this person is so good at doing this.

- I'm going to describe a friend of mine called James. James is an actor by profession. He's in his thirties. He's tall, about my height, with dark hair and a friendly face, and he's always smiling and he cheers me up whenever I see him.
- I met James at university. He was my next-door neighbour in my hall of residence in the first year of university. So on that first day when we were moving into our rooms, James introduced himself to me and we struck up a conversation, and got to know each other then, and we became good friends.
- James, as I said, is an actor, and I think he's really good at that. He studied drama at university, where I met him, and since then he's been working in theatre, he's done some small independent films, and he's trying to get his break in television or in more popular, mainstream films. And I think he'll do it, because for me he seems… when I've been to see him in theatre productions or I've seen the short films that he's been in, he seems to be a really good actor to me.
- Why I think he's good: well, I think it comes from his work ethic. He's a really hard worker, he's really persistent. He always said he wanted to be a successful actor; it's not an easy profession to become successful in, but he has persisted, he's really intense, he studies each role very carefully, he gets into character. I remember, for example, not being able to talk to him for about a week before one of his acting jobs because he was 'in character' he didn't want to lose focus. So he's really intense, and that's what I think makes him a great actor, and why I think he'll be successful.

Describe a person who is very open. You should say

- who this person is
- how do you know this person
- why do you think this person is very open
- and explain how you feel about this person

- Well, every person is different, some are able and like to express themselves more while some like to keep things to themselves. I myself am an introverted person and sometimes I really struggle to express myself.
- Well, I find my mother to be a very open and straightforward person. Today, I am going to talk about her.
- I have seen her straightforward side many times in my life. I have seen her openly express her views and have hardly seen her hiding her feelings and thoughts.
- Since my childhood, I have seen her being very honest. For example, one day, my sister baked cookies for all of us. Those were good but due to overheating, some of the cookies got burnt and the rest turned a little bitter. When my sister asked my mother about her opinion, she clearly said that she didn't like it as she found those to be bitter in taste.
- Many times people get upset due to her straightforwardness but as people get to know her better, they understand that my mother is a pure woman who never wants to insult or hurt someone.
- According to me, it takes a lot of courage to speak your mind out and open. People most of the time hide their real feelings thinking about how the other person will feel, as a result, people tend to lie.
- I have never seen my mother doing this, she has always been honest and I really respect her for this. My mother is loved and respected by many for her straightforwardness.
- I respect my mother and I really wish I had these qualities of her in me.

Describe a famous person you are interested in. You should say:

- who he/she is
- how you knew about him/her
- what he/she was like before he/she became famous
- and explain why you are interested in him/her

- When it comes to a famous person, Elon Musk is the first name that pops into my head.
- Back in 2014, Elon gave a speech to the graduating class of USC, where I got my bachelor degree the next year, and I happened to be there at the ceremony and was really impressed by his words, which I can still remember today: surround yourself with good people, focus on the fundamentals, take risks, and work super hard.
- Before he became famous, he lived in three different countries. Along the way he grew up, he was bold to try different things out, and dropped out of Stanford after two days, deciding instead to join the Internet boom and launch an Internet startup. Right now, it's known that most of the companies he's involved in hit great success and hold a leading position in the industry, with people all round the world driving Tesla cars, using PayPal and other online payment services, and SolarCity providing power for millions of households here. His company even made Big Falcon Rockets.
- I agree that he can be called a world changer, and very few people can figure things out that way. He exactly did what he said in that speech. It seems that he has boundless energy and under no circumstances will he stop thinking ahead enthusiastically. I think what's interesting about his experience is that he challenged the idea that we should always focus on one thing to make it great. His story encouraged me to be curious and do not stop trying in your life path. A lifetime may not be that long, but who knows what can be done tomorrow.

Describe someone who has had an important influence on your life.

- You should say:
- Who the person is
- How long you have known him/her
- What qualities this person has
- Explain why they have had such an influence on you

- The person I'm going to talk about today is my teacher from high school. Her name was Miss Chou and she taught quite a few subjects at the school. She had been working there for quite a few years when I met her I think. We met for the first time in my English class. I remember this well because she was quite young compared to most of the other teachers in the school so I was surprised that she was a teacher! In fact she looked more like she could be one of the older students!
- I met her when I was 15, and that was 10 years ago. I don't actually know her anymore as we lost contact soon after I left the school, but I still remember her very well for several reasons. Firstly, she was very kind. She always treated all the students very well in the class, and I can't remember her ever shouting at anyone. Also, she had a really good sense of humour. She would make jokes in the class which most of the other teachers never did. The other teachers were very serious all the time. And she made the classes a lot of fun and very interesting, something that I think is very important otherwise you start to get bored. Oh, and also she explained things very well and very clearly. Often teachers are not able to do this in a way that students can understand, especially when it's complicated subjects.
- So those are the qualities that she had. The reason she had such an important influence on me is because I was quite a shy person at school and not very confident, but she helped me to change this. Each year, there was a school play that would be held in front of all the parents, and that year, when I was 15, Miss Chou was organizing and directing the play. I really didn't want to be in it because I was so shy, but Miss Chou insisted that I take one of the roles, and it was one of the main roles which meant that I would have to do a lot of speaking! I was so nervous. Anyway, I went ahead and did it, and on the night I did really well and really enjoyed it. And that really boosted my confidence and this has helped me to this day.
- So my teacher Miss Chou is the person who has influenced my life and I will never forget