

Finding and Getting People to Like You

REMEMBER: ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE LOVABLE.

But finding friends may take effort on your part.

LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSE BY YOU.

Familiarity often leads to liking and sometimes love.

To find people you might like and who might like you, it is important to make sure that you are frequently around and visible to a group of people. Many people find friends who are classmates or members of groups they join, or who work at or go to the same places.

LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SIMILAR TO YOU.

We often make friends with people who share our interests and attitudes.

Though always agreeing with someone will not make you more attractive to them, a lot of people are attracted to those who share the same important interests and attitudes, such as politics, lifestyle, morals.

WORK ON YOUR CONVERSATION SKILLS.

Ask and respond to questions; respond with a little more info than requested.

Make small talk; don't underestimate the value of chit-chat.

Self-disclose skillfully; keep your self-disclosure close to that of the other person.

Don't interrupt; don't start talking just fractionally before or after someone else.

Learn things to talk about: Watch others; read; increase your activities and experiences.

EXPRESS LIKING (SELECTIVELY).

We often like the people we think like us.

Express genuine liking for the other person. But don't try to suck up to the other person or grovel. Find things to compliment that are not super-obvious. Don't praise too much too often, and never use compliments to obtain favors.

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JOIN AN ONGOING GROUP CONVERSATION.

If we wait for people to approach us, we may never have friends.

Sometimes we must make the first move in finding friends. This often requires us to know how to tell if a group is open or closed, and then, when it is open, how to approach and join in the ongoing group.

FIGURE OUT IF A GROUP IS OPEN OR CLOSED.

In open groups new members are welcome.

In closed groups new members may not be welcome.

Open Groups

- Everyone is standing somewhat apart.
- Members occasionally glance around the room.
- There are gaps in the conversation.
- Members are talking about a topic of general interest.

Closed Groups

- Everyone is standing close together.
- Members attend exclusively to each other.
- There is a very animated conversation with few gaps.
- Members seem to be pairing off.

FIGURE OUT HOW TO JOIN AN OPEN GROUP CONVERSATION.

Ways of Joining an Open Group

Potential Outcomes

Move gradually closer to the group.

It may not be clear from the slowness of your approach that you want to join them; it might even look as though you were creeping up and trying to eavesdrop!

Offer to refill members' glasses/serve them food.

That could be overdoing things a bit. What would you do if they refused more food/drinks? Would it be clear enough that you wanted to join the group?

Stand beside them and chip in on their conversation.

That might seem rude. They haven't invited you to join them, and anyway, what exactly are you going to say when you chip in?

Go up and introduce yourself.

Isn't that overly formal? Having introduced yourself, then what do you say? Will they introduce themselves to you? Wouldn't you interrupt the conversation?

Wait for a break in the conversation, stand beside a friendly-looking member of the group and say something like "Mind if I join you?"

This makes your intention clear and doesn't seem rude or interrupt the conversation; group members can then choose whether to introduce themselves or not.