

# How to keep up with acquaintances

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Growing up, the connections you make are important so that they can be of help later in life. Making connections or acquaintances isn't that difficult these days, what with Facebook and LinkedIn. Where most people fail is maintaining said network.

You see, just because you know people, doesn't mean they are your "friends". You can't expect them to always have your back, especially when you haven't spoken in a long time. But in order to form an acquaintance that might benefit both parties down the line, there are some things you should keep in mind.

Firstly, don't make a habit out of asking for people's help. If you repeatedly ask help from the same person every few days, it sends out a message that you are taking advantage of them, and nobody wants to feel that way. There are high chances that they'll start avoiding you, and even badmouth you to others, thus bringing down your reputation.

It is of utmost importance to stay in touch with your acquaintances. That is because we all know people who don't contact us at all or acknowledge our existence throughout the year, but when they need some help, they don't hesitate to ask us point blank. Some of them attempt to soften the blow by feigning

interest in our whereabouts before asking for a favour, but it's so evident that they don't care that it stings even more. For instance, I personally dislike people who don't contact me *ever* but pop out of the

Facebook posts every now and then. Maybe share a link or an article with them that might interest them with a simple message, such as, "This reminded me of you." That way, they won't feel that you

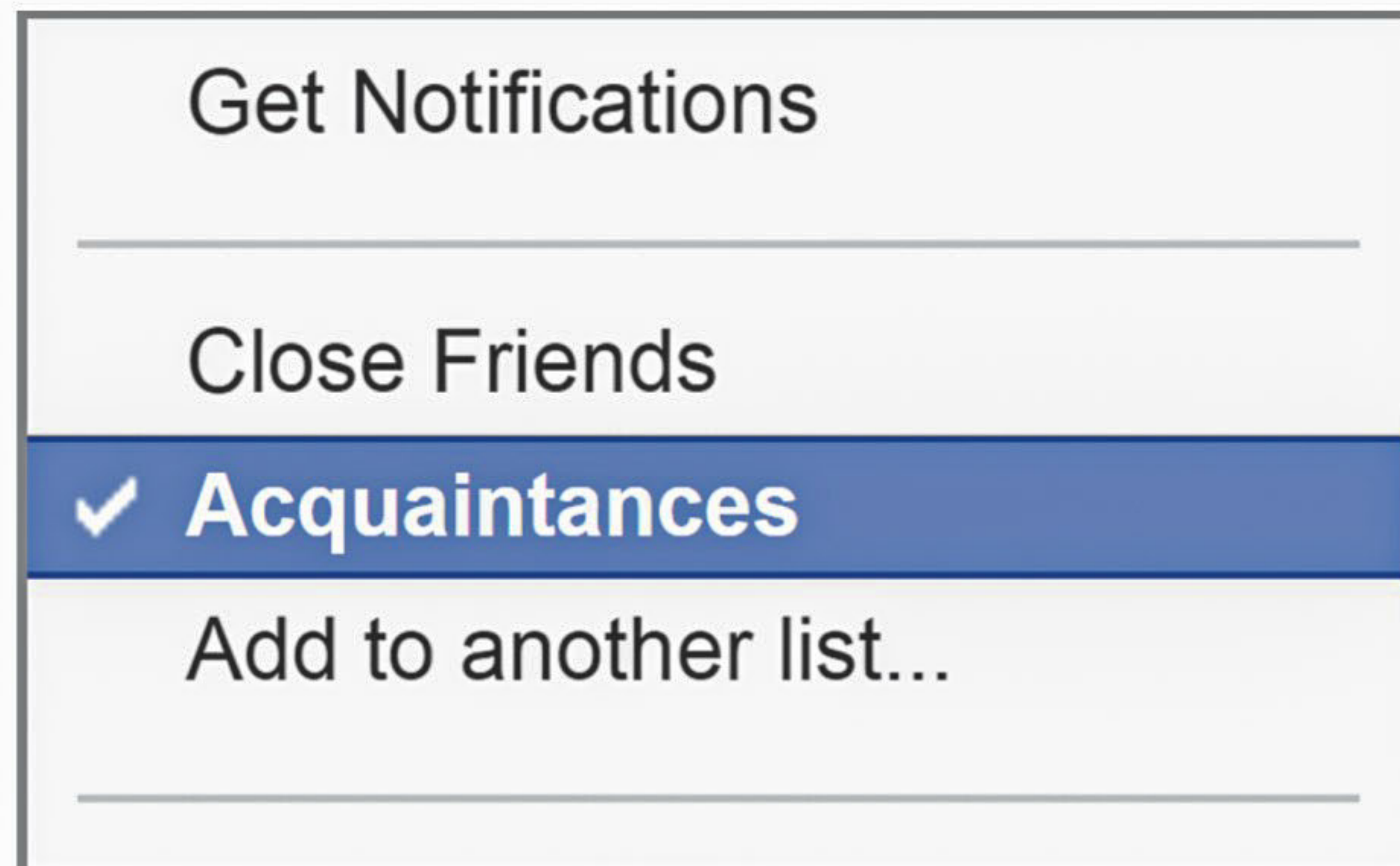
kindness can go a long way. In case you aren't able to aid them, refer them to someone else who might be able to. The benefit of introducing people with similar interests is that they are quite likely to return the favour. That is how your network can grow.

Lastly, don't forget to utter the magic words "thank you" when an acquaintance has done you a favour. That's the least you can do to express your gratitude to someone. Add that you owe them one so that they know you really meant it when you thanked them and of course, when they are in need, extend a friendly hand.

On the other hand, if someone you helped in the past is not willing to help you when you are in need, there are two things you can do: either be the bigger person and forget the issue, or start avoiding the person because you don't need them in your life. Either way, don't be like this person.

Maintaining a healthy relationship with people who aren't quite friends can be challenging. Follow the suggestions stated above and you'll be better off at this difficult task, at least for the time being.

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blue to ask for my help in getting an article published in SHOUT. Don't be these people.

No, you don't have to call your acquaintances or chat with them every day. All you need to do is keep track of them, and like or comment on their

only seek them when in need. It feels good to be remembered even when not needed.

Subsequently, when someone asks you for help, try to help them to the best of your capacity. Even if it is someone you aren't particularly fond of, an act of

## Choose a Community, Ask a Question

# StackExchange



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If you're a pure science or computer science major and googled a problem from your homework (who doesn't), then you've probably found the first four to five results linking you to Stack Overflow. If you've been impressed by its sheer number of resources then know that Stack Overflow is just one of the many websites that makes the popular specialized Q/A forum, Stack Exchange.

### What it is/has:

Where Stack Exchange differs from other Q/A sites is in its division of categories into sub sites or communities. SE has more than a hundred sites up and running and new ones are being opened every month or so. These sites specialize in topics like technology and science to arts, culture, business and much more. SE also emphasises on building communities rather than just running a forum.

Stack Exchange, at its core, is technology oriented. Its biggest and most

successful community is Stack Overflow that specializes in programming problems for both enthusiasts and professionals. In actuality, SE was originally Stack Overflow and was founded in 2008, and was later expanded in 2009. Stack Overflow is now the one stop destination for any programmer. The community is so established and used in the last eight years that new questions are often redundant since almost everything has already been questioned and answered. Aside from Stack Overflow, there are other communities that specialize in computer programming like Super Users (for power users), Server Fault (for system administrators), Programmers (for the conceptual side of programming), Cryptology, Ask Ubuntu, Android Enthusiasts and many more.

Stack Exchange also covers pure sciences like mathematics, physics, chemistry and even philosophy. There are dedicated communities for all the major religions and languages. There

are also mediums for pop culture, science fiction, videogame and anime enthusiasts. There's Seasoned Advice (for amateur cooks), Photography, Travel, Graphics Design, Lifehacks, Writers, Home Improvement and even Parenting.

Browse through SE's communities at: <http://www.stackexchange.com/sites>

One cool addition is their Stack Overflow Careers. This community consists of job seeking programmers and employers. Jobs can vary in durations, posts, salaries and companies. Employing companies have to sign up with a monthly fee to feature their organization. They can seek out aspiring programmers according to their merits or vice versa. Unfortunately it's not yet popularised in Bangladesh.

### How it Works:

You can ask questions as a guest (anonymously) or by signing up. SE's text box is quite enhanced. Alongside basic functions like bolding, italicizing, aligning and listing you can add external links, images, block quotes and

sample codes. You can also add tags after the text.

Questions are upvoted if they're good and useful or downvoted if too silly and/or repeated. So it's better to search if your question was previously answered before submitting it. Answers have the same editor and voting system as questions. The questionnaire can green check one answer which has satisfied his/her question. There's also the scope for commenting on both questions and answers.

SE has a reputation award process that you can access as a member. Reputation grants you many perks and privileges along the way, like answering, commenting and even editing someone's question. Reputation and awarding badges are a great way for encouraging members to contribute and building the community.

All in all it's a great community (or a bunch of communities) with plentiful resources and responsive people to get help from and also to join and help others out.