

The Best Things about Internet Friends

WHEN MOM ASKED WHERE MY FRIENDS LIVE



ZARIN RAYHANA

I remember the first time I joined social media, my parents and relatives had delivered an entire sermon on why I shouldn't be befriending unknown people on the internet. Their descriptions caused me to think of malicious, perverted old men every time the term 'internet friends' was mentioned in front of me. However, over the years, after I learned to distinguish shady internet people from the genuinely good ones, I believe that sometimes these people are one of the most important people you can have in your life. Here's why:

THEY ONLY KNOW ABOUT YOU AS MUCH AS YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW

This is probably the best things about your internet friends. Since we youngsters usually tend to seek validation from our peers, we want our friends to think about us in a certain way. It's not always possible to do this with your real life friends. But with internet friends, you only reveal things about yourself that you want them to know about. Hence, it is easier to mould their impression of you and make them perceive you in a way you'd like them to.

YOU DON'T USUALLY RUN OUT OF CONVERSATIONS

With internet friends, there are always scintillating topics to talk about. Even if you feel like there is nothing to talk about, memes will always be there to the rescue. If you are bad at initiating a conversation, there is the possibility of starting a conversation from a meme, and then delving deeper by conversing entirely using memes. Not only will it aid in

sprawling your meme stash, but you may also find something to actually talk about, like discussing the humour behind "loss memes".

YOU BOND OVER THE MOST RANDOM THINGS

Do you have a certain favourite TV show that is your guilty pleasure and don't want your real life friends to know about it? That's when you bond with people from certain fandoms. They will be there to shriek about cliff-hangers with you, making you feel like less of a weirdo yourself. Or you could just bond over a Yanny/Laurel argument, or argue in a football-related comment thread. You can bond over *anything*, anywhere.

YOU CAN TELL THEM THINGS YOU DON'T WANT YOUR IRL FRIENDS TO KNOW ABOUT

There are certain incidents or stories that you may not want your real life friends to know since they might spill it to others. But with internet friends, you can tell them anything without the fear of them revealing it to your friends, or without the fear of their judgements affecting your social life. They may also act as great listeners and provide support during hard times.

YOU CAN LEAVE WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING

Unlike IRL, there will not be any awkward silences when you are bored or when you run out of conversations.

Zarin Rayhana likes to spend her time by pondering over alternative theories about the universe instead of studying for school. Send her your theories at facebook.com/zarinrayhana.n

Which Iftar item are you?

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

Instead of finding out what kind of natural disaster you are, take this quiz, which is more appropriate for the season.

LEMONADE:

You are the embodiment of an ideal creature. Your friends' parents often compare them to you and rebuke them for not being like you. You are the coolness that is required in every group. Your mental breakdowns are very scheduled. You don't let them get in the way of your relationships. Whenever there is a fight, you can bring the situation under control as though you are the master of this art.

PIYAJU:

People love the duo you make with chickpeas. Despite being loved, you are, in many ways, not healthy company. You are fun, and you always make everyone laugh during any boring discussion. Every parent asks their kids to stay away from you, but they don't listen to them. You can be cruel too, at times.

ALUR CHOP:

You appear to be a soft person but you can be unimaginably cruel when people test your patience. You use the smiley emoticon a lot more than usual. No one knows that they are signing up for listening to some caustic remarks when they make fun of you. It is because you are always smiling. People call you round and most people adore you.

BEGUNI:

You are a polariser. Your opinions divide the people around you. One group hates you. The other loves you. And in the process, both the groups end up hating each other. You are tall, light, and very confusing. People get to know the real you after socialising. No one should judge you by your

appearance at all.

FRUIT:

All eyes in the room settle on you. You are as calm and quiet as you appear. You exude positive vibes no matter what. No one ever gets any sort of harsh treatment from you. You are a very wholesome person. Everyone needs you in their life. You are rich with good manners equivalent to many vitamins and minerals.

DATE:

Though you should fall in the aforementioned category, you are a little different because most people pay you attention only during this season. You are very straight forward and logical. You are that one friend who is extremely cruel and equally important.

HALIM:

You are that one person who despite showing up "occasionally" is the talk of the town.

CHIKON JILAPI:

People on the internet are literally debating over you and your sibling, who is also known as "Mota Jilapi". Some prefer you over your sibling. Some like you both. Some hate you both. It must be a nice feeling getting all the attention, right? Other than being the centre of an endless debate, you are a sweet person.

CHICKPEA:

It is very difficult to ignore you.

ROOH-AFZA:

Your name means "refresher of the soul". At least, that's what most people believe in spite of the exact meaning of your name being unknown. You prefer syrup smelling perfume all the time, which is not very convenient. And if someone wants to gift you on your birthday, they should pick something red or maroon.



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