

Friendship-Acquaintance 6 Stage Theory

By Mobinah [Redacted]

Dear person reading this, Find out where you fit in and the next time I tell you we aren't friends don't get offended. Now you'll know why. Love, Moby. P.S. This is not some exclusive thing, where I'm telling people they're unworthy. It's telling it like it is.

Pre-Acquaintance (10% of people I know)

- We don't know each other.
- We know their each other's name only.

Acquaintance Level 1: To know of someone - 20% of people I know

- We know of each other through mutual friends/acquaintances.
- We met briefly at a party/social event/uni.
- You're a work colleague or business client (who I haven't spent much time with)
- We run into each other now and then by coincidence
- Convenient Interactions - Meeting up is not planned, and only because it is convenient and easy.
- Details about each other are superficial.

Acquaintance Level 2: Liking & Preliminary Care - 30% of people I know.

- We went to school/uni together, or have known you for a long period of time.
- We usually meet in groups, rarely one on one.
- If you needed my help, I would actively participate in helping them to the best of my ability.
- I can handle a 20 minute small-talk chat with you, any longer and I will get bored.

Acquaintance Level 3: Significant Connection & Care - 25% of people I know.

- We have a really good connection.
- We have some very meaningful talks
- We care a lot about each other.
- We don't see each other all that much, just now and then - when we plan to meet.

Pre-Friend (AKA Potential Friend) - 14% of people I know

- Someone I wish were a friend (as defined below and NOT as society currently defines it)
- I want to spend more time with this person and establish a proper friendship with them.

Friend: Mutual Feelings of Love - 1% of people I know

- I care immensely in every domain of their life (academic, physical, mental wellbeing), how their relationships with their loved ones are. I also care about their thoughts, ideas, elations and fears.
- I can easily give my honest opinion and thoughts.
- This person notices when I am upset through subtle indications.
- I see this person regularly and feel totally comfortable to contact them for a deep and meaningful talk.
- Someone who takes initiative and makes sacrifices to work on this friendship.
- Mutual trust, respect, admiration, forgiveness and unconditional care.

Note: If it's not mutual, then we're not friends.

See next page for further notes.

Further Notes

1. There is no shame in being an acquaintance. I think society has made the word derogatory and that is why it seems offensive. It's just about being honest.
2. Friendship is not that complicated to me (I know, the irony of making up a theory and calling it uncomplicated). There may be a small few that cannot be categorized because there is history and shades of grey - but I look at my relationship with most people as being black or white, categorized, uncomplicated.
3. The theory is flexible in the sense that people can go up or down the levels and understands that throughout a dynamic friendship, people become closer or further apart from each other.
4. My theory originates from personal experiences. I realize that one of my biggest vulnerabilities is that I'm too sentimental; this theory combats this problem quite efficiently.
5. I understand that this theory cannot be applied to everyone, but it significantly helps me.