B2-C1 English Worksheet

Group Chat Personalities: Why Plans Never Leave the Chat

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Article

A UK survey commissioned by a mobile network suggests that group chats have become the unofficial headquarters of social life. Of the 2,000 respondents, 71% said they used chats to arrange activities, yet 47% reported having a plan stuck at the discussion stage. A Guardian columnist explored eight familiar personalities, from organisers who set up polls and make bookings to the "I'm easy" friend who avoids choosing. Other members may chime in with jokes or sit on the fence when asked for a date. The categories are playful rather than scientific diagnoses, but they capture a familiar frustration: organising a simple evening out can become surprisingly burdensome.

The survey also described the ghoster who reads messages but rarely answers, the enthusiastic flake who agrees to everything before deciding to drop out, and the instigator who proposes plans but leaves the practical work to somebody else. Organisers must sort out conflicting schedules, keep track of payments and wait for people to get back to them. Even a modest outing can fall through when replies are ambiguous. The writer argues that reliable organisers are indispensable, although their efforts often go unnoticed. Repeated delays can create resentment, especially when one person must take on the less enjoyable work.

Not everyone who fails to reply is inconsiderate. Busy lives and anxiety about refusing invitations can make people reluctant to commit, while a spontaneous outing that excites one person may exhaust another. Group chats help distant friends remain connected, but messages alone cannot replace action. A more considerate approach is to answer honestly, share the practical tasks and follow through on agreed plans. Perhaps the healthiest chat is not the one with the most messages, but the one in which responsibility is shared and nobody feels obliged to do everything.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

No.	Statement	T / F
1	A majority of surveyed people used group chats to arrange social activities.	
2	The eight personalities are presented as scientifically proven diagnoses.	
3	Some group members suggest plans but expect others to handle the details.	
4	The survey found that no respondents had plans stuck at the discussion stage.	
5	The writer suggests that organisers always receive recognition for their work.	
6	A person can enthusiastically accept an invitation and later withdraw.	
7	The article acknowledges that silence can reflect anxiety or a busy schedule.	
8	The conclusion argues that the busiest group chats are always the healthiest.	

Phrase Match

Match each phrase (1-10) to the correct definition (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. set up	A. withdraw from an activity after agreeing to take part
2. chime in	B. fail to happen as planned
3. sit on the fence	C. join a conversation by adding a comment
4. drop out	D. accept a task or responsibility
5. sort out	E. monitor changing details so they are not forgotten
6. keep track of	F. establish or create something
7. get back to	G. carry out what has been promised or planned
8. fall through	H. resolve practical problems or arrangements
9. take on	I. avoid choosing between available options
10. follow through	J. reply to someone after a delay

Synonym Match

Match each word (1-10) to a synonym (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. respondents	A. essential
2. burdensome	B. eager
3. enthusiastic	C. unwilling
4. ambiguous	D. participants
5. reliable	E. thoughtful
6. indispensable	F. dependable
7. resentment	G. unplanned
8. reluctant	H. demanding
9. spontaneous	I. bitterness
10. considerate	J. unclear

Use the New Language

Choose 5 words or phrases and write your own sentences.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A	Student B
1. Which group-chat personality described in the article sounds most like you?	1. Do organisers take on an unfair share of the invisible work in friendships?
2. Have you ever had to chase friends for replies while organising something?	2. Should people who repeatedly drop out of plans be invited less often?
3. How do you handle a group chat that becomes noisy or goes off-topic?	3. Do read receipts create unreasonable expectations of instant availability?
4. Have you ever agreed to a plan and regretted it later?	4. Can group chats exclude quieter, older or less digitally connected people?
5. Is it easier for you to decline an invitation privately or in a group?	5. When do jokes in a group cross the line into humiliating someone?
6. Has a misunderstood message ever affected one of your friendships?	6. Can constant messaging create an illusion of closeness without real meetings?
7. Which tools - polls, reactions or shared calendars - help your group chats?	7. Who should be accountable when private messages are forwarded outside a group?
8. Have you ever left a group chat without explaining why?	8. What unwritten rules would make group chats more considerate without making them formal?

Answer Key

True/False
1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=F, 5=F, 6=T, 7=T, 8=F
Phrase Match
1=F, 2=C, 3=I, 4=A, 5=H, 6=E, 7=J, 8=B, 9=D, 10=G
Synonym Match
1=D, 2=H, 3=B, 4=J, 5=F, 6=A, 7=I, 8=C, 9=G, 10=E

Example Sentences With the Phrases

No.	Example sentence
1	We set up a new group chat to plan the weekend away.
2	Everyone was encouraged to chime in before we booked a restaurant.
3	It is frustrating when friends sit on the fence about the date.
4	Two guests had to drop out because of work commitments.
5	I will sort out the tickets if you book the accommodation.
6	She uses a spreadsheet to keep track of payments.
7	Please get back to me by Friday so I can confirm the numbers.
8	The picnic may fall through if nobody agrees on a venue.
9	He agreed to take on the task of arranging transport.
10	Good friends follow through on the plans they make.