

Part 1. Read the four messages below. Which have you sent, received or wanted to send? Tell your partner who it was and what happened.

<i>"Sorry, only just seen this. What did I miss?"</i>	<i>"Does anyone else's phone keep buzzing, or is it just me?"</i>
<i>"Can we take this to a separate chat? I've got 47 unread messages."</i>	<i>"Not to be dramatic, but I've muted this chat for my own sanity."</i>

Part 2. Choose one option in each pair and explain your choice.

A group chat that's always buzzing	or	a group chat that's gone quiet
Voice notes	or	typed messages
A chat with 20 people	or	a chat with three close friends
Replying straight away	or	replying when you have something to say
Muting a chat	or	leaving it altogether
A chat full of memes and jokes	or	a chat full of plans and logistics

Part 3. Read the statements. Which feel true for you? Tick your answers, then compare with a partner.

- I've got at least one group chat that I've muted but never left.
- I've left someone on read because I couldn't face replying.
- I'd rather scroll back through 100 messages than ask what I missed.
- There's someone in one of my chats who never writes anything, but always sends a thumbs-up.
- I've typed a reply, deleted it, and sent something safer.
- I check at least one group chat more often than I'd like to admit.

Part 4. Discuss the following questions.

- Which group chats are you in at the moment? Which one do you actually enjoy?
- Who keeps the conversation going in your busiest chat, and who only chimes in when something affects them?
- Is there a chat you're still in only because leaving would be awkward? What would happen if you left?
- What makes a group chat feel fun, and what makes it feel like hard work?
- Do you behave differently in a group chat than you do in a one-to-one message? How?

Part 5. In small groups, rank these group chat types from 1 (most irritating) to 6 (least irritating).

The person who sends 10 messages in a row instead of one	The lurker who reads everything and never says a word
The one who replies three days later as if nothing happened	The one who sends a four-minute voice note
The one who answers a question ages after the conversation has moved on	The one who starts a serious argument in a chat of 15 people

Part 6. Read each situation with a partner. What would you do? Discuss your choice, or come up with your own idea.

You've been added to a group chat of 30 people, most of them strangers, for a friend's leaving do. Within an hour, you have 80 unread messages.

1. *Mute it straight away and check it once a day.*
2. *Scroll back through everything so you can catch up properly.*
3. *Message the organiser and ask for a quick summary.*
4. *Leave quietly and hope nobody notices.*

A friend sends a long, honest message to the group chat about a difficult week. Nobody replies for an hour, and you're not sure what to say.

1. *Reply straight away with something short and kind.*
2. *Message them privately instead, away from the group.*
3. *Wait to see what everyone else says, then follow their lead.*
4. *Pick up the phone and call them.*

Someone in the family chat sends a joke that you find unkind. Everyone else replies with laughing faces.

1. *Say nothing and mute the chat for a few days.*
2. *Reply calmly, in the chat, that it didn't feel funny.*
3. *Message the person privately and talk it through.*
4. *Change the subject with something lighter.*

Part 7. Read the statements. Say whether you agree, disagree or partly agree.

- It's rude to leave a group chat without saying anything.
- If you've seen a message, you should reply within a day.
- Voice notes are lazy: they save the sender time and cost the listener time.
- Group chats are the reason most friendships survive adult life.
- A work group chat should never be used outside working hours.
- Muting a chat is the modern way of being polite.

Part 8. Read the two viewpoints. Which is closer to what you actually think? Explain where you sit.

Viewpoint A

Group chats are what keep friendships alive. We're all busy, and without a place to share a joke, a photo or a quick update, we would lose touch with half the people we care about. A bit of noise is a small price to pay.

Viewpoint B

Group chats give us the feeling of being close without the effort. A thumbs-up is not a conversation, and a chat of 15 people can make you feel more distant, not less. Real friendship happens one to one, when someone actually has to listen.

Part 9. Tell your partner about a group chat that mattered to you, for good reasons or bad ones.

Think about:

- Who was in it, and how it started
- What a normal day in the chat looked like
- A moment you still remember: a joke, an argument, an awkward silence
- Whether it's still going, and whether you'd want it to be

Reflection

Complete the sentences in your own words.

1. The group chat I'd miss most if it disappeared is...
2. One I'd happily leave, if it weren't so awkward, is...
3. When someone leaves me on read, I usually...
4. The kind of person I try to be in a group chat is...