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## Friendship over meme template

From dancing babies to funny cats and political photoshops, memes spread everywhere. They make us laugh, think and unite. But what are memes? Evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, known for his popular books on science and atheism, coined the term in his 1976 book *The Selfish Gene*. The word itself is a combination of gene and a Greek word for imitation, and he claimed that culture was the means of transmission. Decades later, we are filled with fun and influential memes thanks to internet culture. The BBC recently wrote about how crucial memes are in our daily lives, carrying news, ideas and humour in a small smart package. Memes can help us relax on serious matters. They also spread like jokes to give us a humorous point of view. Iconic stars of memes usually get the role unexpectedly, and like the world-famous Grumpy Cat, they can capture our hearts. Yuri Arcurs/Getty Images After adult entertainment, photos and videos of cats are the most popular content on the internet. It's not surprising, then, that cat memes are so popular that some entrepreneurs are making a living dealing in them. These memes have evolved into books and photo calendars by day, where cats provide commentary on their lives to which we can all relate. Sonsedska/Getty Images A CGI demonstration or computer graphics called dancing baby may have been the first widely distributed image in the meme style. Short, silly or catchy clips followed, such as that of video blogger Gary Brolsma synchronizing his lips and gesturing in front of his computer to Romanian pop music Numa Numa. His production values were horrendous, but the experience caught on, and through the wonders of sharing memes, he became world famous. Vlogging has become a highly lucrative YouTube business for artists of all ages. fizkes/Getty Images Text typed over iconic images are a category of meme of their own. Overly Attached Girlfriend has crazy eyes and carries quotes like let the light on so I can watch you sleep. Success Kid hits the bomb while publicizing his triumphs, such as buying concert tickets online. Many of these random photos - Success Kid was just one of many photos that his mother posted on a photo-sharing site - have become as recognizable as big brands. In a crossover, the world-famous Grumpy Cat, featured in many grumpy-themed memes, also appeared on food packaging for Friskies cats. Andrew Rich/Getty Images Through subtitles, photoshop modifications and lucky photography, the memes provided great political and social satire. A famous example is a photograph of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, an almost doe-like US president Donald Trump, being spoken to by the Queen. The Queen's caption balloon says I thought you'd gone back to America. yuliang11/Getty Images Quoting It's a trap of Admiral Ackbar from Star Wars is a popular photo commentary on social media. It can be used, for example, as a funny answer when someone announces their plans to visit a friend in person. Characters from movies, television and comics can appear in streams of comments to make a point more graphic and humorous than just words. Albert L. Ortega/Getty Images Cute, or kawaii in Japanese, cartoon creatures and Japanese pop culture emoji characters are popular memes. Hello Kitty is one of the best known, along with Chococat and other related images. Pusheen is a chubby gray kitten who engages in everything from sleeping to enjoying food, providing meme-style commentary, as the answer to What are you doing? in a messenger app - Pusheen eating pizza says it all. Even the poop emoji has become a popular meme online and offline. Poop emoji hats, t-shirts and even a night light are available. Artrise/Getty Images Even everyday photos can become memes when they accurately express a common experience. The image that says a thousand words can now be used in email and messages to share feelings of joy, despair, loneliness and wordless excitement. When these photos are used as memes, they carry a special clarity of message, as everyone knows what the lone-face photo means. The same goes for a particularly poignant sports photo or a child's expression of happiness - Success Kid mentioned earlier is a great example of this, even without subtitles. RobHowarth/Getty Images Memes do for free what companies spend millions trying to achieve: spreading the message. No for nothing is that Friskies hired Grumpy Cat to be their spokesperson, and Success Kid appeared on billboards for Virgin Media to announce that his parents receive HD channels at no additional cost. Dos Equis created a concept of advertising with the caption of Jonathan Goldsmith as The Most Interesting Man in the World. Presented in the form of a subtitled meme, it took off online with hundreds, if not thousands of parodies like I don't always listen to the Rolling Stones, but when I do it my neighbors. BrianAJackson/Getty Images The memes aren't just fun. As Richard Dawkins noted, they carry ideas and opinions in a contagious way that spreads rapidly from person to person. Social networks provide even greater speed than email once. Although most memes are humorous, the meme is a vehicle for many other possibilities. PeopleImages/Getty Images This post comes from the TODAY Parenting Team community, where all members are welcome to post and discuss parenting solutions. Learn more and join us! Because we're all in this together. Melanie Forstall - Life Stories, Love &gt; See my posts &gt; Visit my blog Melanie is a full-time mom, full-time teacher, full-time wife and blogger never enough in Melanie Forstall: Life Stories, Love and Motherhood. It was published by Scary Mommy, Parent.Co, Sammiches & Psych Meds, and Her From Home. School memes are funny whether you are a high school student, a college student, a teacher, or even a parent with children who go to school. Virtually everyone has had their own experiences with and education, so memes that really highlight the relatable nature of these experiences can evoke many personal memories. School memes typically mean something about a student's feelings about something they experienced at school. School memes can mean something about homework, class presentations, exams, friends, romantic passions, extracurricular activities, school sports teams, or other school-related things. School memes are used to exaggerate a student's thoughts, feelings, and/or actions in a school-related situation. Since children and teens generally develop much of their social lives through school and therefore are often very concerned about just trying to fit in, some of the funniest school memes arise from exaggerating the experiences they have in their social circles. Example #1: Image: Success Kid meme model. Text: Go to school on the first day. He finds out the teacher doesn't have any care. Namely: Success Kid is a meme used to express small and big wins. In this particular meme example, the small or big win is considered the opportunity to skip classes without having to worry about getting caught up in it. Example #2: aaaaaaaimage: Mother standing with her children while boarding the school bus. Text: The best part about shopping back to school... is that the kids are going back to school. That is: parents love their children, but they can love them a little more when they can finally take a break after they return to summer vacation school. Example #3:Picture: Harry Potter's Professor Snape looking confused and a little annoyed. Text: The face you make when your high school crush marries with your arch-enemy. That is: Sometimes old high school friends become lovers later in life, and it can really sting when you discover that someone you really liked ended up with someone you really didn't like. Check out the list below for more funny school memes! Teachers are not known to be cool, but Professor of Science Rasta certainly is. You never know if you're going to finish class feeling pretty cold or feeling very polite—or maybe both! Most students start the school year with a freshly stocked supply of stationery, but end the year with basically nothing. Could it be some kind of alien conspiracy? Before Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and the entire social network emerged, children had only one primary way to communicate outside of school: their parents' landlines. Those were the days, huh? Now that the dangers of social network distraction beckon students from their ever-connected mobile devices, they can disguise their internet addiction as rewards deserved for completing even the smallest school-related tasks, that students always end up remembering the most useless information from their classes? These hexagon drawing skills will be useful when... Oh wait, they'll probably never be useful. College and university textbooks basically cost you an arm and a leg when you bought brand new. And the worst part of it all is that you never know when you're going to have that teacher who bases almost nothing of the course out of the book, despite being listed as an essential material item of the course. Someone needs to break the news to this guy (or gal) that taking a single course on any topic doesn't make them an expert. Tell them to come back and preach their things when they have at least a decade of experience working in this area. Skipping school always seems like a good idea before you do it (and even while you're doing it)—until you come back the next day and find out that you've literally missed all the interesting events that could have happened in the single day. Group projects are difficult enough to be done when you can choose your friends to work with, but they are even more difficult when the teacher decides to group you with random colleagues who have conflicting personalities and different educational values. When you're a kid, school can look like a prison. And it may seem like a glorious, soul-expanding freedom when your parents come to get you out of school early to take you to a consultation or something. Nothing is worse than thinking that you studied enough for a test before realizing that you'll have to rely almost entirely on divination and improvisation for the slightest chance of earning a pass grade. After a night of traveling with your friends or waiting until the last minute to finish an assignment, sleeping seems to make a lot more sense than going to a morning class. Public speaking is stressful enough, but when you have to potentially do it in front of your passion for a theme you misunderstand and couldn't care less about, you really have to do your best to make up for your lack of grace. Admit it, it's no use looking your best at school if your passion isn't there. You could have saved a lot of time in the morning if you had known he or she wasn't going to watch. It is difficult not to notice those students who are significantly older than the typical 18, 19 or 20 years in any college or university class. In fact, it's kind of humiliating and inspiring to see them there as proof that no matter who you are, you never stop learning while you're still alive. Alive.

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