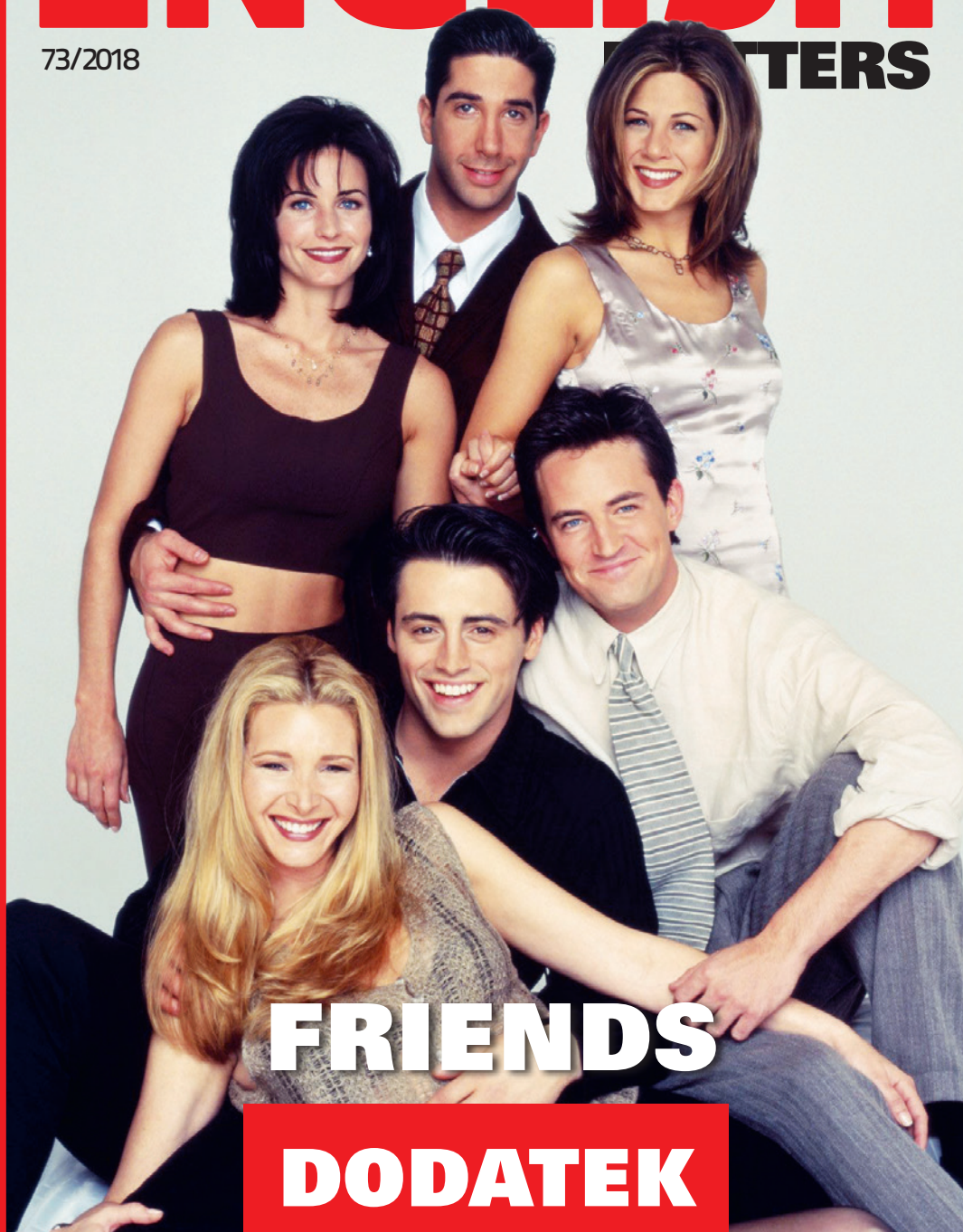


# ENGLISH

73/2018

LETTERS



# FRIENDS

# DODATEK

# ENGLISH MATTERS

## Language Guide poradnik językowy

Dear Readers,

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. or simply Friends is an American sitcom centring on the lives of six friends living in New York. The show was broadcast over the period of ten years, with a total of 236 episodes. It won six Emmys, one Golden Globe, one Screen Actors Guild award and many other accolades. At its height, the show was watched by up to 50 mln people in the USA alone, while repeats of the now-timeless episodes seem to be on the TV almost constantly. Reruns of Friends generate an estimated \$1 bln each year for owners Warner Bros. As well as commercial success, the series is believed to have impacted Western society through speech patterns, clothes and hairstyles, and even beliefs about ideals. The most notable influence on the English language comes from the character Chandler, played by Matthew Perry, whose use of sarcasm and especially the word 'so' has permeated jokes, normal conversations and internet memes. In essence, 'so' was the adjective modifier of choice to such an extent that it became so popular that using it now for sarcastic effect is so clichéd. If you've not watched Friends before, crawl out from under the rock you must have been hiding under and join *English Matters* as we demonstrate how the show can teach English as well as entertain viewers. We've looked at the first two episodes in detail and prepared some exercises at the end of this Guide for you to do as you watch. Enjoy!

**broadcast** 'brɔːd,kɑːst | nadawany

**accolade** | dowód uznania

**at its height** at its **h**ait | w swoim  
najlepszym okresie

**to seem** | wydawać się

**rerun** | powtórka, ponowna emisja

**estimated** | szacowany

**pattern** | wzorec

**influence on sth** | wpływ na coś

**to permeate sth** | przenikać coś

**to such an extent** | do takiego stopnia

**clichéd** | wyświechtany

**to entertain sb** | bawić kogoś

**enjoy** | *tu*: dobrej zabawy

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Poradnik językowy jest bezpłatnym dodatkiem do English Matters nr 73/2018.

**Opracowanie:** Owen Williams

**Korekta:** Graham Crawford

**Colorful Media** ul. Lednicka 23, 60-413 Poznań

tel. 61 833 63 28, redakcja@colorfulmedia.pl

**Okładka:** Stasia Lebedenko / Depositphotos



## The One Where *English Matters* Watched Friends

### The One about the Different Characters

The main cast stayed the same throughout the ten series, with the six main characters developing with the show. There were three ladies and three men: Rachel, Monica, Phoebe, Chandler, Joey and Ross. Ross and Monica are siblings, while numerous love interests happen between the characters. Other minor characters also made repeat appearances, such as Gunther, the owner of Central Perk, Janice the on-off girlfriend of Chandler, and Mike the husband of Phoebe. Here's a brief description of each character [contains minor spoilers].

**cast** | obsada

**siblings** | rodzeństwo

**numerous** | liczny

**minor character** | *tu*: bohater drugoplanowy

**appearance** | *tu*: pojawienie się, zagranie w filmie, występ

**to contain sth** | zawierać coś



**Rachel Green** played by Jennifer Aniston – pretty lady who starts out reliant on her father, and then friends for money. The style icon and heart throb of the show, Rachel is the last person to join the group of friends, when she turns up in the first episode. She goes on to get a successful job at the Ralph Lauren clothing company and eventually settles into a relationship. She moves in with Monica at the start of the show, making her one of the inhabitants of the girls' apartment; a key location for many of the scenes.



**Monica Geller** played by Courtney Cox Arquette – wannabe chef and clean freak. Loving little sister to Ross (despite the actress actually being older than David Schwimmer in real life) and best friend to Rachel. She goes through a number of unsuccessful relationships and jobs before finally settling down with a husband and finding professional satisfaction. She is the owner of the main apartment in the show.



**Phoebe Buffet** played by Lisa Kudrow – the kooky one of the group. She's full of strange stories about her extraordinary past, and unique views about the world. Little emphasis is placed upon her work, while her place of abode is rarely featured. She performs at the Central Perk café on her guitar. Although she is unlike any of the other characters, she is a loving and supporting friend who goes through the same relationship troubles as the rest of them.

**reliant on sb** | polegający na kimś, zależny od kogoś  
**heart throb** | łamacz serc, obiekt westchnień  
**to turn up** | pojawiać się  
**eventually** | w końcu, ostatecznie  
**inhabitant** | mieszkaniec  
**wannabe** | aspirujący (np. do jakiegoś stanowiska)  
**chef** | szef kuchni, główny kucharz

**clean freak** | maniak/maniaczka czystości  
**despite sth** | po/mimo czegoś  
**owner** | właściciel/ka  
**kooky** | *pot.* szurnięty, zwariowany, stuknięty  
**extraordinary** | niezwykły  
**to place emphasis on sth** | kłaść nacisk na coś  
**abode** | miejsce zamieszkania  
**although** | chociaż



**Chandler Bing** played by Matthew Perry – funny man Chandler loves sarcasm. He's Joey's best friend and by comparison is very responsible. He tells funny stories of unfortunate situations that he has been victim to. These situations are probably why he looks at life through dark humoured lenses. Despite his funny comments, he keeps true to the promise in the theme tune that "[friends] will be there for you."



**Joey Tribbiani** played by Matt Le Blanc – an actor of fluctuating success, Italian American Joey loves food almost as much as he loves women. His chat up line, "how you doin'," is spoken in more episodes than there are notches on some bedposts. He's a loyal friend and roommate to Chandler, not just because he sometimes relies on him financially, but because the two share a strong bond of friendship. Joey's a very likeable character, partly because of his happy go lucky attitude and partly because of his apparent innocent lack of intelligence.



**Ross Geller** played by David Schwimmer – it's hard to say if misfortune follows Ross around causing his often sad demeanour, or if it's the negative energy he emits that attracts misfortune. Either way, the character has a reputation of feeling down and being unlucky in love. In his professional life, Ross is a palaeontologist who works at a museum and then a university. In comparison to his personal endeavours, his work life looking at fossils rocks!

by comparison | dla porównania,  
w zestawieniu (z kimś)  
victim | ofiara  
to keep true to sth | trzymać się czegoś,  
być wiernym czemuś  
fluctuating | zmienny  
a notch on sb's bedpost | *pot.*  
przypadkowy/jednorazowy partner  
seksualny  
roommate | współlokator  
to rely on sb | polegać na kimś  
bond | więź  
likeable 'laɪkəbl | dający się lubić,  
budzący sympatię,  
sympatyczny

happy go lucky attitude | bez troskie/  
niefrasobliwe podejście  
lack of sth | brak czegoś  
misfortune | pech  
demeanour dɪ'mi:nə(r) |  
zachowanie, postawa, sposób  
bycia  
to attract sth | przyciągać coś  
either way | tak czy inaczej  
to feel down | być przygnębionym/  
smutnym  
in comparison to sth | w porównaniu  
z czymś  
endeavour ɪn'devə(r) | wysiłek,  
staranie



## The One Where/When...Clauses Were Relatively Defined

Each episode of friends has a title starting, “The one where/when/with...” followed by a brief description of what happens in the episode. As well as being a quirky theme for episode names, these titles are good examples of defining relative clauses. A defining relative clause is a sentence which uses a relative pronoun such as where, which, when, who or that to help define something. For example, a banana is a fruit **which** is yellow. The correct relative pronoun must be used for what is being described, as follows:

people – who/that

places – where

times – when

things – which/that

### Complete these defining relative clauses using the correct relative pronoun:

1. Friends is a TV show ..... was set in New York.
2. Jennifer Aniston is the actress ..... played Rachel.
3. 1994 is ..... the first episode premiered.
4. Central Perk is the name of the café ..... the friends often met.
5. The Rembrandts are the band ..... performed the theme song.
6. Season two was the only one ..... didn't include a Thanksgiving Day episode.
7. Brad Pitt and Bruce Willis are two stars ..... had cameos on the show.

Answers: 1. which/that, 2. who/that, 3. when, 4. where, 5. who/that, 6. which/that, 7. who/that.

## The One Where...Non-defining Relative Clauses Were Explained

Like their defining \*ahem\* relatives, non-defining relative clauses use relative pronouns to give information about a thing, place, person, or time. They differ in that what information they give does not define the object of the sentence, but rather gives more information about it. To indicate this grammatically, a comma is placed either side of the clause. This non-defining part of the sentence, held between two commas, can be removed from the

**quirky** | osobliwy, dziwny

**set** | umiejscowiony

**to include sth** | obejmować coś

**Thanksgiving Day** | Święto

Dziękczynienia

**cameo** | gościnny występ

(np. w serialu)

**to differ in sth** | różnić się (w) czymś/  
pod względem czegoś

**to indicate sth** | wskazać coś

**comma** | przecinek

**either** | *tu*: po obydwóch

**removed from sth** | usunięty  
z czegoś

sentence without the loss of logical meaning. For example; The banana, which is yellow, was grown in Africa. Without the clause, the sentence still makes sense, “The banana was grown in Africa.” The relative pronouns which are used for non-defining clauses are the same as those in defining clauses, except for the omission of ‘that.’

### Complete these non-defining relative clauses using the correct relative pronoun:

1. The character Ben, ..... is Ross’s son, was actually played by two identical twins.
2. Courteney Cox, ..... played Monica, is the only main cast member not to have received an Emmy nomination for the show.
3. During season ten, ..... was the last season, each cast member was paid \$1 mln per episode.
4. New York, ..... the show was set, was never used as a filming location for the show!
5. ‘Friends,’ ..... we all know is the title of the show, is actually said in every episode.
6. David Schwimmer, ..... plays Ross, was the first actor to be cast for the show.
7. On average an episode, ..... lasts 22 minutes, took five hours to film.

Answers: 1. who, 2. who, 3. which, 4. where, 5. which, 6. which, 7. which

### The One which Came First

Contradictory to what is said above, episode one of season one is often simply titled ‘The Pilot,’ although it has now gained the name “The One Where Monica Gets a Roommate.” The opening scene takes place in coffee shop Central Perk. All the characters except Ross and Rachel are seated around the sofa which features heavily throughout the series. The characters are talking about relationships, which is also one of the main themes of the show. Later a sad Ross enters, then a wedding dress-wearing Rachel does. Here Rachel, and the viewers, are introduced to each of the characters.

loss of sth | strata czegoś  
 without sth | bez czegoś  
 except for sth | z wyjątkiem czegoś  
 omission of sth | pomijanie/pominięcie  
 czegoś  
 actually | w rzeczywistości  
 twins | bliźniaki  
 on average | przeciętnie  
 contradictory to sth | w przeciwieństwie

do czegoś  
 to gain sth | uzyskać/zdobyć coś  
 heavily | tu: w dużym stopniu, często  
 wedding dress-wearing | nosząca suknię  
 ślubną

During the episode Monica dates a man from work but discovers that he tricked her. Rachel explains that she left her fiancé at the altar and now wants to be independent (something which entails her cutting up the credit cards from her dad and getting her first ever job). Ross is emotional about the break up with his ex-wife. Joey and Chandler have no main storyline, but they're there to support Ross in picking up the pieces in his apartment, and also to make jokes and facetious comments throughout. Similarly, Phoebe is more of a supporting character, both figuratively and literally. The episode concludes with the characters well established in their attitudes. Monica gets revenge on the man who tricked her (watch and see how). Rachel is feeling blue but positive about her new life. Ross, meanwhile, ends the episode with a spoonful of hope.

### Key Word: Pilot

As well as being the person who flies an aeroplane, a 'pilot' is the first episode of a new program. It's made as a test to see if the idea is worth investment. Quite often the 'pilot episode' is omitted from the final production of a series after many changes have been made.

Another meaning of 'pilot' is when a small hole is drilled before something larger is to be inserted, for example, "I pilot drilled the edges of the wood so that the screw wouldn't split it." In a way, all three of these uses of the word 'pilot' mean something that is a guide.

**viewer** | widz

**to date sb** | chodzić z kimś na randki,

spotykać się z kimś

**to trick sb** | oszukać kogoś

**fiancé** fi'ɒnseɪ / fi'a:nseɪ | narzeczony

**altar** 'ɔ:lta(r) | ołtarz

**to entail sth** | pociągać coś za sobą

**break up** | zerwanie, rozstanie

**to pick up the pieces** | poskładać wszystko do kupy; *tu*: zmontować coś (np. meble)

**facetious** fe'si:fəs | żartobliwy, zabawny

**figuratively** | w przenośni

**literally** | dosłownie

**to get revenge on sb** | zemścić się na kimś

**to feel blue** | być smutnym / przygnębionym

**meanwhile** | w międzyczasie

**with a spoonful of hope** | pełen nadziei

**worth sth** | wart/y czegoś

**omitted** | pominięty

**drilled** | wydrążony, wywiercony

**inserted** | włożony

**screw** skru: | śruba

**to split sth** | *tu*: uszkodzić/zniszczyć coś, rozłupać coś



## Watch the episode and answer the following questions

- Who is the first character to speak?
- Who is the last character to speak?
- What's the name of the man Monica dates?
- What does Ross tell Phoebe to stop cleansing?
- What does Chandler want (to enter the coffee shop)?
- What, metaphorically, does Rachel no longer want to be?
- Who comically asks Monica's date what his name is?
- What reason does Phoebe give for not helping the guys put Ross's furniture together?
- What three flavours of ice cream does Joey mention to Ross?
- What does Rachel say it looks like Monica had in her mouth while she slept?

Answers: 1. Monica, 2. Chandler, 3. Paul (the wine guy), 4. His aura, 5. A million dollars, 6. A shoe, 7. Chandler [of course], 8. She doesn't want to, 9. Rocky road, Cookie Dough, and Bing! Cherry Vanilla, 10. A hanger.

## Key Vocab from Episode One:

- a hump – a large bump on a person's back
- a hairpiece – fake hair. Also known as a wig
- I figure... – I think that I should/could
- throat – the passage between mouth and stomach
- murky – unclear
- hysterical – overly emotional
- survivor – a person who doesn't die in a life-threatening situation
- eyelashes – the small hairs on the eyelids
- honeymoon – the holiday following a wedding
- screwed – *slang* in trouble
- valuable – worth a lot of money
- grab – to take hold of something quickly
- revelation – a new and surprising idea

to cleanse | myć, czyścić  
 hump | garb  
 hairpiece | peruka  
 throat | gardło  
 murky 'mɜ:ki / 'mɜ:rki | niejasny,  
 mętny  
 overly | zbyt, nadmiernie, za dużo

life-threatening | zagrażający życiu,  
 niebezpieczny  
 eyelid | powieka  
 honeymoon | miesiąc miodowy, podróż  
 poślubna  
 screwed | tu: w tarapatach  
 to take hold of sth | chwycić coś

regional – relating to a local area

beacon – a shining light that can be seen from far away

crush – slang wanting to have a relationship with someone beyond friendship

geeky – un-cool or overly interested in something which usually isn't popular

vulnerability – the quality of being open to an easy attack

serving – offering/giving food or drink to people



## The One that Came Second

Referring to Ross's pregnant wife's trip to the hospital for a first view of their baby-in-the-making, episode two is called, The One with the Sonogram at the End. After a funny discussion which has no relevance to the main storylines, the episode starts with Ross discovering that his wife, who has left him for a woman, is pregnant with his child. He's dumbstruck. Monica, Phoebe, Joey and Chandler are in the living room of Monica's apartment as she frantically prepares for her parents' visit. Rachel enters looking for the ring which she

**relating to sth** | odnoszący się do czegoś

**beacon** 'bi:kən | światło ostrzegawcze,  
światło przewodnie

**crush** | zauroczenie

**beyond sth** | poza czymś, ponad coś

**geeky** | dziwaczny, nudziarski

**vulnerability** ,vʌlnərə'biləti | podatność

(np. na zranienia)

**serving** | obsługujący

**pregnant** | w ciąży

**relevance to sth** | odniesienie do czegoś,  
znaczenie dla czegoś

**dumbstruck** | ośpiał

**frantically** | gorączkowo

has to return to the man she left at the altar. Ross arrives with his disheartening news. Later, just Ross and Monica are left in the apartment with their parents. Monica is treated slightly unfairly by her parents, so she's glad when Ross eventually tells them his news. The next scene sees all the characters in the coffee shop where Rachel now works, it's closing time and Ross and Rachel share a moment when all the others have left. Then Ross has trouble seeing eye to eye with his ex-wife and her new partner as they all wait for the doctor at the hospital. Just before storming out, Ross sees the ultrasound picture that the three people had been waiting for. Rachel returns the ring to her ex – and is surprised to see him looking well, and even more surprised to learn he is dating her friend. Finally everyone is back at Monica's watching the recording of the ultrasound. Chandler makes a joke and Monica gets emotional.

**Geeky Fact:** The Ugly Naked Guy is a recurring character who is often spoken about but seen only twice in the whole ten series. First mention of him comes in episode two. He lives in an opposing apartment, performing various tasks without ever wearing any clothes. Eventually he moves out and Ross moves into his apartment.

disheartening | przygnębiający

slightly | lekko, trochę

eventually | w końcu, ostatecznie

to storm out | wypaść (skądś) jak burza, szybko wybiec

recording | nagranie

recurring | powracający

## Watch the episode and answer the following questions

- Where do Ross and his ex-wife talk at first?
- Who sees the ugly naked guy first?
- What, according to Chandler, can make parents be cruel to a child?
- Where is the engagement ring found? And by whom?
- What adjective does Monica's mum use to describe spaghetti?
- Which of the friends is an only child?
- What's Rachel's former fiancé called?
- Why does Ross's ex – want to call the baby Minnie?
- What does Phoebe say the video looks like?
- On the phone, what does Rachel unkindly wish for her friends future children?

Answers: 1. In a museum, 2. Chandler 3. The flatness of a pillow, 4. Phoebe finds it in the lasagne, 5. easy, 6. Chandler, 7. Barry, 8. It was her grandmother's name, 9. An old potato, 10. [Barry's] old hairline and [her friend's] old nose.

## Key Vocab from Episode Two:

- advice – wise words given as a guide to others
- erect – upright
- paranoid – believing that everyone is trying to get you
- pillow – a soft cushion, usually for the bed (although seen on the sofa)
- chaotic – unorganised and unpredictable
- ceremony – a formal event marking something
- engagement ring – the ring given to a fiancée/fiancé when they agree to marry
- dreading – not looking forward to / anticipating with fear
- stomped – stamped on with a foot
- doy – an out of fashion expression showing that something was obvious
- ruined – no longer in a good condition
- an expression – a saying or phrase
- anecdote – a short story, often true and about a past experience
- only child – a person with no siblings as a child
- dumped – told by the other person that a relationship is over

**according to sb** | według kogoś

**engagement ring** | pierścionek

zaręczynowy

**erect** | wyprostowany

**cushion** | poduszka

**chaotic** *ker'ɒtɪk / ker'a:tɪk* | chaotyczny

**unpredictable** | nieprzewidywalny

**to anticipate sth** | przewidywać coś, oczekiwać czegoś

**out of fashion** | niemodny

**obvious** | oczywisty

**dumped** | po/rzucony

OB/GYN – American expression/abbreviation for gynaecologist  
tanned – having an appearance of darkened skin due to sunlight exposure  
 maid of honour – the principal bridesmaid  
nausea – experiencing the need to vomit  
tilt – change the angle of something upright to the side

## The One about the Theme Tune

Sung by the Rembrandts and co-written by the show's creators, I'll be there for you reached number one in the States. If you don't already know the words by heart, here they are:

*So no one told you life was gonna be this way  
 Your job's a joke, you're broke  
 Your love life's D.O.A It's like you're always stuck in second gear  
 When it hasn't been your day, your week, your month  
 Or even your year, but  
 Chorus:  
 I'll be there for you  
 (When the rain starts to pour)  
 I'll be there for you  
 (Like I've been there before)  
 I'll be there for you  
 ('Cause you're there for me too)  
 You're still in bed at ten  
 And work began at eight  
 You've burned your breakfast, so far  
 Things are going great  
 Your mother warned you there'd be days like these  
 But she didn't tell you when the world has brought  
 You down to your knees and  
 Chorus*

**tanned** | opalony  
**due to sth** | z powodu czegoś  
**sunlight exposure** | ekspozycja na światło słoneczne  
**bridesmaid** | druha  
**nausea** 'nɔ:ziə | nudności

**to vomit** | wymiotować  
**tilt** | przechylenie, nachylenie, przekrzywienie  
**angle** | kąt  
**to know sth by heart** | nauczyć się czegoś na pamięć

## The One with the Conclusion

Friends is now a sitcom classic. The series took millions of viewers on a journey of ups and downs over the course of ten years. A whole generation of people grew up watching the show, so it undoubtedly helped shaped their lives in some way. That doesn't mean that all these people now live in New York and date their friends while hanging out in a coffee shop, but for sure many of these viewers have quoted the show and referenced it on numerous occasions. Whatever influence Friends has had on the Western world, it's well worth a watch for the entertainment value or as a chance to brush up on some English. Repeats are found on TV almost constantly, or the entire show is available on Netflix. Watch it with a notebook alone, or discuss it with friends.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

ups and downs | wzloty i upadki  
to grow up | dorastać  
undoubtedly ʌn'daʊtɪdli | niewątpliwie  
to shape sth | u/kształtować coś  
to brush up on sth | szlifować coś  
available | dostępny



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ENGLISH  
MATTERS

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