There are 3 types of friends. These 3 types of friends are not mutually exclusive, so it's probable that your friends will belong to more than one of these types (but rarely all three).

They are:

Proximal (Available) friends

Mind (Fun) friends

Soul (Close / Best) friends

Proximal friends are the ones who are almost always there. You talk / see them almost every day. These tend to be "friends by chance", and they will usually be people you see every day at school or work. These are often people that you see so often or work so closely with that you must be "friends" for the sake of politeness. One could say that a surface-level friendship is expected in these situations, and it would be rather rude to avoid friendship by ignoring them. These kinds of friends tend to frequent your life. For friends who are only of this type, you may have little in common besides your line of work or proximity. Conversations tend to be surface-level small talk only. Once you are no longer in constant contact with each other, the friendship immediately dissolves into nothing. However, when this trait is combined with another kind of friendship (Mind or Soul), it forges powerful, meaningful friendships.

Mind friends are the kind of friend that you mess around with and have fun with. They are the one you share very similar interests as you. They're the ones you would watch a movie with or play a game together. If you're doing something, you'll call up one of these friends to go do it with you! These types of friends are the ones you like to just hang out with. The topics of conversations with these friends tend to be related to common interests. You may make effort to stay in touch with these friends even when you don't see them daily. You plan meet-ups to do various activities together, even if there is considerable distance between you. Strong mind friends may start to share some traits of Soul friends by sharing deeper thoughts / troubles / ideas, but these discussions are infrequent and not the primary component of the friendship.

Soul friends are the ones you share the depths of your heart with, your feelings. You can talk to them about your secret troubles, or simply vent about your day. Conversations tend to last for hours, sometimes into the darkness of night. If you need a shoulder to cry on, you find one of these friends. These loyal friends stay and talk to you when you're feeling down. For friends that are exclusively of this trait, the majority of the activities you do are just talking. Conversations may wax philosophical, and you share your day's musings. Spiritual discussions linger with these kinds of friends. Some common interests may be shared with Soul friends, but such interests are not the primary component of the friendship.

What is the relationship between these three types of friends?

When you make a new friend, they always start an acquaintance. Acquaintances are simply a weak proximal friend. So once you are proximally close to someone for long enough (proximity may be physical, but may also involve social network), they will automatically become a proximal friend.

Most people get stuck as proximal friends. These are the people who tend to be co-workers and whatnot; you are friends with them out of politeness. You talk to them when you see them, you don’t usually talk to them when you don’t. Not all friends get stuck here, however.

If something “clicks” with a proximal friend, they will differentiate into either a mind friend or a soul friend. If that person shares some similar interests as you, you become mind friends. If you find it easy to talk to that person about “deeper” subjects, you become soul friends. The unique quality that mind and soul friends have over proximal friends and acquaintances is that they tend to endure for some time after you are no longer in close proximity. Even after you change jobs, you still keep in touch with a former co-worker. Even after you graduate college, you keep in touch with a few of your classmates.

Mind and Soul friends are very different, but equally important. Mind friends are much easier to maintain, as they are fueled by common interest. As long as interests remain relatively similar, these friendships will endure. Dissolution of this kind of friendship is not particularly difficult, as if the interests of both parties change, the friendship will automatically and painlessly fade away... Soul friends, on the other hand, are harder to maintain. The intimacy shared between soul friends is usually kept up with discussions about current problems / thoughts, but should the flow of information slow / stop, the friendship may become plagued with anxiety. Soul friends are more likely to fight and have traumatic severance of the friendship should something go astray. Soul friendships suffer from the “paradox of close relationships”, which adds more anxiety to Soul relationships.

A person who falls under the category of both mind and soul friendships could be considered a “best friend”. Such a friend is incredibly rare, and should be valued if one if found. It is common for you not to have this kind of friend, so don’t despair if you don’t have a “best” friend! Such a friend would contain the benefits of both types of friendships, but will still suffer from the “paradox of close relationships”.

People tend to have only a small amount of “real” friends (real friends defined as friends that are either mind or soul friends). Even within a group of “friends”, most of them are only proximal friends, despite what it may look like. A litmus test for this situation would be this: Once conditions change and the “group” can no longer be together, who would you keep in touch with? These people would be your soul and mind friends from that group; everyone else was merely a (good) proximal friend. Under my definition, I believe people will have no more than a few “real” friends (perhaps 1 to 5 on average). The others are simply proximal friends.

All friendships are in a constant state of flux, so your number of friends is always changing. Sometimes, you will have an abundance of friends, other times, you will feel lonely. It is extremely rare for the same friend to stay with you for a long time; it is much more common for friends to only stay for part of your life, but move on after a time. Even the closest soul friend or the wildest mind friend will usually drift away after a while. Each individual friendship is temporal; enjoy them while they last!

I want my friend to miss me as long as I miss them

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7zUd9jFlJo>

Blue Sky Black Death - Our Hearts Of Ruin