

How Warm Is Your Welcome?

Imagine moving into a new neighborhood where you don't know anyone. What about a new city—or even a new country? What would help you feel welcome?

It can be scary to be the new kid on the block. When someone joins your class, team, or community, put yourself in his or her shoes. Think about how much a few friendly words might mean. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

While you're at it, think of how much a new

friend might mean to you! New friends bring new ideas, experiences, and ways of looking at the world. Getting to know people can be just as rewarding for you as it is for them.

If you're not sure where to start, try a warm smile. Make eye contact and say hello. Give a compliment or ask a question. When you welcome newcomers, you help them feel at home—and you might just make great friends in the process.



Do you open up to new people? Circle your answers, then add up your points.

- 1 I smile and warmly greet people when I meet them.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 2 If new neighbors move in, my family and I visit to welcome them.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



- 3 I remember that new kids may be sad about leaving their old home and friends, and I listen if they want to talk.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 4 I invite new friends to play or hang out with me and my other friends.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 5 I introduce myself when new kids join my class.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 6 I ask new people questions, such as where they are from and if they need help with anything.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 7 When friends come over to play, I make sure I give them a chance to choose what we do.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 8 I invite new kids at school to eat lunch with me and my friends.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



- 9 I try to put myself in other people's shoes and imagine how they feel.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 10 If new kids need help at school, I offer to study together or show them around.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



- 11 If a friend invites me over, I respond by inviting him or her to my house or to hang out.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

- 12 I tell new kids about fun things to do in our area, such as clubs or teams to join or cool sights to see.
Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

MY SCORE:

36–28 points: Ahh . . . nice and cozy! You give all people a warm welcome, whether they're new friends or old. Keep letting your radiance shine brightly.

27–19 points: Hmm . . . might need a sweater. You can be welcoming, but you may not show it at times. Let go of your hesitation, and share your warmth with others.

18–12 points: Brrr . . . it's chilly in here! You might feel you're too shy, or you may wait for others to take the first step. Warm up your welcome with some tips in the quiz.