



MY FRIEND IS ALWAYS LATE

Part 1: A Letter from Chiara

Dear AI,

Ciao! It's me, Chiara. I'm writing from Florence, Italy, and I have a small (but very annoying) problem. My best friend, Luca, is always late. I mean always. He's late for school, late for the movies, late for lunch, and yes—he was even late to my birthday party. By one whole hour! I was sitting there with balloons and cake, waiting like a statue.

Luca is Italian, and he says things like, "Relax, Chiara! Time is flexible!" or "I arrive when the moment feels right." He laughs, gives me a hug, and says, "I'm here now, isn't that enough?" I love him, but I also love being on time. I get stressed when we miss the bus or the beginning of a concert. I tried everything. I sent reminders. I told him the wrong time—30 minutes early! He still arrived late.

Last week, we were supposed to meet at 3:00 for gelato. I got there at 2:55. Luca arrived at 3:40, smiling and holding flowers. "For you," he said. "To say sorry—but also because they were on sale." I didn't know whether to laugh or scream.

I don't want to fight with Luca. He's kind, funny, and he always brings snacks. But I also don't want to wait forever. What should I do? Should I stop inviting him? Should I bring a book and wait in peace? Or should I just accept that Luca lives in a different time zone—Luca Time?

Please help me, AI. I need advice that works in real life... and maybe in Italy.

From, Chiara

Comprehension Questions	True or False
1. Where is Chiara from?	1. Luca was late to Chiara's birthday party.
2. What is her problem with Luca?	2. Chiara likes being late.
3. What does Luca say about time?	3. Luca brings snacks when he arrives.
4. What did Chiara try to fix the problem?	4. Chiara stopped inviting Luca to events.
5. Why doesn't Chiara want to fight with Luca?	5. Chiara wants advice from the AI.

Follow-Up Activity – What's Your Time Style?

Work with a partner. Ask and answer:

1. Are you usually early, on time, or late?
2. What do you do when someone is late?
3. Is being late normal in your country?
4. What advice would you give Chiara?

Teacher's Key

Comprehension

1. Florence, Italy
2. He is always late
3. "Time is flexible" / "I arrive when the moment feels right"
4. Sent reminders, gave wrong time
5. Because he's kind, funny, and brings snacks

True or False Answers

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True