



MY FRIEND IS ALWAYS LATE

Dear Chiara,

Thank you for your message. I understand your frustration. Waiting is hard—especially when you're holding balloons and cake! Your friend Luca sounds kind and funny, but yes... he definitely lives in "Luca Time."

In some cultures, being late is normal. People arrive when they feel ready, not when the clock says so. But I know you value being on time, and that's important too. You shouldn't feel bad for wanting to start things on time. It shows respect and care.

Here are some ideas:

- You should talk to Luca and explain how you feel. Tell him that being late makes you feel stressed or forgotten.
- You could agree on a "fake time"—tell him to meet 30 minutes earlier than the real time.
- You might bring a book, music, or even a snack while you wait.
- You could plan activities that start slowly—like drawing, chatting, or eating gelato—so Luca can join without missing the best part.
- You shouldn't stop inviting him. He brings flowers, snacks, and big hugs. That's rare and beautiful.

Friendship is about balance. You are the clock. He is the sunshine. Together, you make a great team. And hey—maybe one day Luca will surprise you and arrive early. (Okay, maybe not early... but less late!)

Keep being kind, Chiara. You're doing great.

From, Al

Vocabulary Practice – Time & Friendship

Part A: Match the Words

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. flexible | small food between meals |
| 2. hug | arrives before the planned time |
| 3. stressed | different local time in different parts of the world |
| 4. reminder | not strict or fixed |
| 5. snack | a warm physical greeting |
| 6. advice | feeling worried or tense |
| 7. early | something that helps you remember |
| 8. time zone | helpful ideas or suggestions |

Part B: Fill in the Blanks

Use the words above.

- Chiara feels _____ when she waits too long.
- A _____ helps you remember the meeting time.
- Luca gives Chiara a big _____ when he arrives.
- "Time is _____," Luca says.
- Luca always brings a _____—chips or cookies.
- Chiara wants _____ from the Al.
- Luca lives in a different _____: Luca Time!
- Chiara arrives _____ at the gelato shop.

Teacher's Key

Vocabulary Practice – Time & Friendship

Part A: Match the Words

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. flexible | not strict or fixed |
| 2. hug | a warm physical greeting |
| 3. stressed | feeling worried or tense |
| 4. reminder | something that helps you remember |
| 5. snack | small food between meals |
| 6. advice | helpful ideas or suggestions |
| 7. early | arrives before the planned time |
| 8. time zone | different local time in different parts of the world |

Part B: Fill in the Blanks

1. Chiara feels **stressed** when she waits too long.
2. A **reminder** helps you remember the meeting time.
3. Luca gives Chiara a big **hug** when he arrives.
4. “Time is **flexible**,” Luca says.
5. Luca always brings a **snack**—chips or cookies.
6. Chiara wants **advice** from the AI.
7. Luca lives in a different **time zone**: Luca Time!
8. Chiara arrives **early** at the gelato shop.