

Pen Pals for 68 Years Finally Meet

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Random /'rændəm/ (Adjective) - made, done, happening, or chosen without method or conscious decision.
Example: She likes to pick a random book from the library.
2. Regret /rɪ'gret/ (Noun) - a feeling of sadness, repentance, or disappointment over something that has happened or been done.
Example: He expressed his regret at having caused the accident.
3. Encourage /ɪn'kʌrɪdʒ/ (Verb) - give support, confidence, or hope to (someone).
Example: The coach encouraged the team before the game.
4. Testament /'tɛstəmənt/ (Noun) - a person's will, especially the part relating to personal property.
Example: The lawyer read out the deceased's last testament.
5. Dominate /'dɑːmɪneɪt/ (Verb) - have a commanding influence on; exercise control over.
Example: The team has dominated the league for the past decade.
6. Meaningful /'miːnɪŋfʊl/ (Adjective) - having a serious, important, or useful quality or purpose.
Example: The speech was very meaningful and inspiring.



Patsy Gregory from England and Carol-Ann Krause from New York have been pen pals since 1955, when they were both 12 years old. The pair were given each other's names at **random** and told to write to each other. They have been writing letters to each other ever since, sending around 800 letters and notes over the years.

As Gregory approached her 80th birthday this year, she told her daughter that one of her biggest **regrets** was never meeting her pen pal in America. But on her 80th birthday, Gregory's children surprised her with a ticket to South Carolina, where Krause now lives, to meet her lifelong friend on July 14.

During the trip, the two spent hours talking and visiting local places to eat and sightsee. After having spent their whole lives 7,000 kilometers apart, the two had lots to talk about. While Gregory and Krause now communicate more on social media than through letters, Gregory said she would **encourage** anyone to have a pen pal.

Despite the rise of social media, Gregory and Krause have continued to write letters to each other for 68 years. They would write about school, who they were dating, and what was happening in their lives.

The story of Patsy Gregory and Carol-Ann Krause is a **testament** to the power of friendship and the joy of receiving a handwritten letter. In a world where social media **dominates** communication, their lifelong friendship is a reminder of the importance of taking the time to connect with others in a **meaningful** way.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you have a pen pal? If so, how did you meet?
2. What is your favorite way to communicate with friends and family?
3. Have you ever received a handwritten letter? What did you think of it?
4. What is your favorite thing to write about in letters?
5. What is your favorite place to visit in America?
6. What is your favorite place to visit in England?
7. Do you think social media has made it easier or harder to make friends?
8. What is your favorite social media platform?
9. What is your favorite way to stay in touch with friends and family who live far away?
10. What is your favorite memory of spending time with a friend?