



American Expression E1466 Joined at the hip

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"Joined at the hip" is a colorful and figurative expression in the English language. It is often used to describe a close and inseparable relationship between two people, often friends or partners, where they spend a significant amount of time together and are rarely seen apart. This idiom conveys the idea of an unbreakable bond or an intense connection between individuals.

The phrase itself derives from the physical proximity of the hip joint, where the leg is attached to the torso. In a literal sense, two people who are "joined at the hip" would be physically attached, unable to move independently. However, when used figuratively, it suggests an emotional or social attachment so strong that the individuals involved seem to function as a single unit.

This expression is often employed to describe the closeness of friendships or partnerships. When people describe themselves as being "joined at the hip" with someone else, it means they are inseparable companions who share a deep bond. They may do everything together, from work and hobbies to social activities and leisure time. Such relationships are marked by a high degree of trust, mutual understanding, and a sense of unity.

The phrase is not limited to romantic relationships; it can apply to friendships, family bonds, or any strong interpersonal connection. Friends who are always together, siblings who share everything, or business partners who collaborate seamlessly might all be described as "joined at the hip." It signifies a level of closeness and compatibility that is exceptional and often the envy of others.

In some cases, "joined at the hip" can also be used to describe a reliance or dependence on someone or something. For instance, a person who cannot make a decision or take any action without consulting their partner may be said to be "joined at the hip" with that individual. Similarly, organizations or entities that are heavily dependent on specific suppliers or resources may be described using this expression.

However, it's important to note that while being "joined at the hip" often conveys a sense of strong camaraderie and interdependence, it can also have negative connotations in some contexts. Over-reliance on someone else or a lack of independence can sometimes be seen as a drawback or limitation.

In summary, "joined at the hip" is an idiom used to depict an exceptionally close and inseparable relationship between individuals. It highlights the strength of emotional bonds, mutual reliance, and the extent to which two people share their lives. Whether used to describe friendships, partnerships, or other interpersonal connections, this phrase captures the idea of individuals who are deeply connected and spend a significant portion of their time together.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. How can being "joined at the hip" with someone in a personal or professional relationship impact one's individuality and decision-making autonomy, and what are the pros and cons of such close bonds?
2. Can you share examples of famous partnerships or friendships in history or popular culture that were described as "joined at the hip," and what made these relationships unique or memorable?
3. In what ways does the concept of being "joined at the hip" manifest in various cultural and societal contexts, and how do cultural norms influence the dynamics of close relationships?
4. When describing organizations or entities as being "joined at the hip" with specific suppliers or resources, how can this level of dependence affect the stability and resilience of those organizations, especially in times of change or crisis?
5. How do you strike a balance between maintaining a close and supportive relationship with someone while also preserving your individuality and independence? What strategies or boundaries can help navigate the complexities of being "joined at the hip" with another person?