

Section 1:

#1 "I remember the day I met Rachel. Back then, we were nothing more than empty lots—unfamiliar, untouched. Our first conversations were like laying down a blueprint: hesitant sketches, rough outlines of something that could become real. At first, we were just two walls standing side by side, not yet connected. But every shared secret, every burst of laughter, became another beam, another window letting light into the structure of what we were building."

Strengths: Your metaphor of friendship as construction is vivid. The progression from "empty lots" to "walls" to "beams" creates a logical development.

Repetitive phrasing → You use "At first" shortly after saying "Back then," creating redundancy. Your opening needs more variation in how you introduce the beginning of your friendship. Phrases like "Back then" and "At first" appearing so close together make your writing sound repetitive and less sophisticated. Consider using more varied language to describe the initial stages of your relationship.

***"I remember meeting Rachel when we were nothing more than empty lots—unfamiliar, untouched. Our tentative conversations laid down the blueprint of our friendship: hesitant sketches and rough outlines of something potentially meaningful."***

#2 "The beauty of true friendship is that it never remains stagnant. It expands, adapts, and evolves like a home that grows with the people inside it. Even as life brings renovations—new jobs, changing priorities, unexpected storms—the walls remain sturdy. Friendship, like a well-loved home, is not perfect. It has messy rooms, creaky floors, and doors that sometimes stick. But at its core, it is a place where you are seen, belong, and loved despite the clutter."

Strengths: Your extended metaphor works well here. The comparison between home maintenance and friendship maintenance is thoughtful and relatable.

Vague statements → Your writing includes general statements without specific examples from your friendship with Rachel. When you mention "renovations—new jobs, changing priorities, unexpected storms," you don't connect these back to your specific friendship. This makes your writing feel abstract rather than personal. Add concrete examples of how these changes affected your friendship with Rachel specifically.

***"Our friendship, like our childhood home, has weathered many changes. When Rachel moved to Edinburgh for university and I stayed in London for work, we adapted by scheduling weekly video calls and sending care packages—renovations that kept our connection strong despite the distance."***

#3 "Our friendship transformed from a modest one-room shelter to a sprawling, intricate home through the years. It was a place of comfort—a warm kitchen filled with late-night conversations, a sturdy front porch where we sat and dreamed about the future. When life forced us into separate cities, our home stood unwavering. No matter how far we travelled, the door was always open."

Strengths: Your "kitchen" and "front porch" metaphors create vivid imagery. The paragraph has a good flow and pace.

Limited development → You mention being forced "into separate cities" but don't explain how you maintained your friendship during this time. This important transition deserves more detail. Without explaining how you kept your connection "unwavering," readers cannot understand the actual work that went into preserving your friendship during separation. Share specific ways you stayed connected despite the distance.

*"When Rachel moved to Manchester for her dream job and I remained in Bristol, we created new rooms in our friendship home—a digital living room where we shared weekly video dinners, and a virtual garden where we exchanged photos of our daily lives, ensuring our connection remained as strong as ever."*

Your piece offers a thoughtful exploration of friendship using the extended metaphor of home-building. While your metaphor is creative, your narrative would benefit from more specific anecdotes about your friendship with Rachel. Currently, your writing stays at a general level, making it hard for readers to fully connect with your experience. Also, try varying your sentence structures more—you often begin sentences with similar patterns. Your paragraphs could be strengthened by including specific moments or conversations that demonstrate how your friendship was tested and strengthened. Additionally, consider showing Rachel's perspective occasionally to make the friendship feel more balanced and mutual. Remember that the most effective personal narratives balance general observations with specific, memorable details that only you could share.

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**Overall Score: 44/50**

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Section 2:

**The home we build together** Some friendships are like rented apartments—temporary spaces where you stay for a while before moving on. Others are grand mansions, impressive from the

outside but hollow within. However, a true friendship is a home, not built in a day but over time, with trust as its foundation and shared moments as the bricks that hold it together.

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As with any home, maintenance was necessary. There were days when the roof leaked, words were left unsaid, and misunderstandings seeped through like cracks in the walls. Once, a minor disagreement turned into a silence that stretched like an abandoned room—cold, empty, and unfamiliar. We avoided each other for weeks, the distance between us growing like weeds in an untended garden. But real homes are not abandoned at the first sign of wear. Instead of letting our friendship rot like an old house forgotten by time, we renovated. We faced the damage, repaired the broken pieces, and, in doing so, made the foundation even more potent.

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#2 The beauty of true friendship is that it never remains stagnant. It expands, adapts, and evolves like a home that grows with the people inside it. Even as life brings renovations—new jobs, changing priorities, unexpected storms—the walls remain sturdy. Friendship, like a well-loved home, is not perfect. It has messy rooms, creaky floors, and doors that sometimes stick. But at its core, it is a place where you are seen, belong, and loved despite the clutter.

Rachel is my home, not in walls and beams but in how she understands my silences and how our conversations pick up as if no time has passed. In a world of shifting landscapes and temporary addresses, I am grateful for the house we have built together—strong, warm, and unshakable.

Because in the end, a house is just a structure, but a home—like true friendship—is where your heart is safe.