

## Asking for a friend

My second cousin once-removed – on my mother’s side of the family lineage - wants to find out what to wear to a funeral.

My officemate seeks suggestions in the proper way to dump her loser boyfriend with the least damage to her ego and work status.

My best friend from elementary school and her third husband are traveling to a resort island for the first time, and they would appreciate advice.

My sister wants to tell our parents that she isn’t spending the holiday with them and instead going with friends on vacation.

A stranger standing next to me frantically is asking how to clean up a wine spill on the couch at a party – quick, answer ASAP. I’ve posted pictures of the damage on my FB page.

My neighbor is perplexed at what BTW mean and should she use the term when texting her grandsons.

You get it.

Everything about life you should have learned in kindergarten, and heaven forbid, it shows your ignorance otherwise.

Then on the other hand, public criticism is at an all-time high these days, and folks are unsure of themselves. It isn’t always smart to let on to your ignorance. Asking sincere questions gets you in trouble whether or not you are “red,” “blue” or claim to be unaffiliated.

Somehow when the rest of us were napping, society's rules have been thrown out and it's what the latest musical sensation does that everyone follows like panting lapdogs.

There are folks with time on their hands who like to play with words, and they have turned "asking for a friend" into hackneyed over-usage.

It's become a catch-all phrase to ask an honest question. In other words, it's all a joke to comfortably get an answer for yourself without unnecessary embarrassment.

You discover that people need attention constantly, their self-worth validated and it's exhausting. Someone you barely know – that second cousin once-removed - is on scouring Facebook waiting to give you a reply even if it is a Friday night. Isn't that a telltale sign of not having much of a life?

Thanks to social media, you can get answers – a lot of them – in a short amount of time. Millennials have all the answers, don't they?

Now the hard part is picking out which points have truth with them, and which are a partial pack of lies from the pen of someone who doesn't even know the capitol of Kansas. (Asking for a friend...)

My hope – not – is that asking for a friend doesn't enter the annals of approved American linguistic phrases, or put in a time capsule to be uncovered fifty years from now.