

## TOPIC: TYPES OF GROUPS

### Defining a Group

◆ The term “group” can refer to a variety of things, but generally involves two or more people who:


- 1 Interact \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ a sense of identity.
- 3 Have shared experiences and/or \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Think of themselves as “we” (align themselves with the group).

Not all groups will meet all of these criteria all of the time.

◆ In sociology, groups are distinguished from:

**Categories**


Individuals with \_\_\_\_\_ characteristics or common status, without social ties.



Ex: Gen-Z, nurses, the middle class

**Crowds (Aggregates)**

People in the same physical \_\_\_\_\_, without shared identity or sustained interaction.



Ex: People in an elevator, people at a carnival.

### EXAMPLE

Match each term to the example that best fits it:

<b>Group</b>	
<b>Category</b>	
<b>Crowd</b>	

1. Three dozen commuters waiting in the subway station.
2. Several coworkers who regularly collaborate on projects and meet for lunch.
3. All licensed midwives in the United States.

### PRACTICE

Which of the following is **not** necessarily a feature of a group?

- a) Frequent face-to-face communication.
- b) A shared sense of identity.
- c) Perceiving oneself as part of a group.
- d) Shared experiences or interests.

## TOPIC: TYPES OF GROUPS

### Primary and Secondary Groups

◆ Charles Horton Cooley (1864-1929) defined groups based on their level of \_\_\_\_\_.

Primary Group	Secondary Group
Small group with _____ bonds (ex: family, friends).	Large, impersonal group (ex: coworkers, classmates).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ _____ emotional ties.</li> <li>▶ _____ personal knowledge of each other.</li> <li>▶ Group serves emotional and social needs.</li> <li>▶ Often represent _____ term relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ _____ emotional ties.</li> <li>▶ _____ personal knowledge of each other.</li> <li>▶ Group tends to be goal or task oriented.</li> <li>▶ Often represent _____ term relationships.</li> </ul>

◆ Individuals from secondary groups can become part of primary groups over time.

### EXAMPLE

Fill in the table with information about Primary and Secondary groups. Some rows have been filled out for you.

	Primary Group	Secondary Group
<b>Examples</b>	Family, friends	Coworkers, classmates, political organizations
<b>Strength of emotional ties</b>	_____	_____
<b>Needs Met</b>	_____	Completing _____.
<b>Duration of relationship</b>	_____ term	_____ term
<b>Amount of personal knowledge about other members</b>	High	_____

### PRACTICE

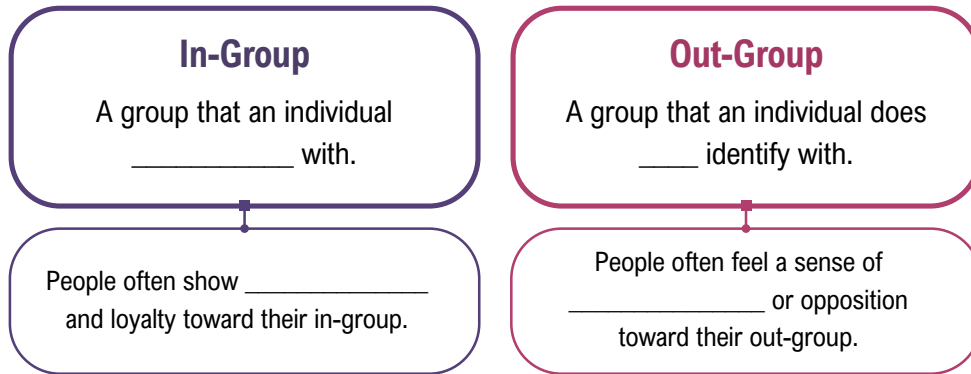
Which of the following is the **best** example of a primary group?

- a) A university class preparing a group presentation.
- b) Four lifelong friends who meet for brunch once a month and emotionally support each other.
- c) Several professors who plan to meet up at an academic conference to collaborate on a project.
- d) A customer service team completing a project at work.

## TOPIC: TYPES OF GROUPS

### In-Groups and Out-Groups

- ◆ Group identity can impact social belonging, as well as social divisions.



- ◆ These can be broad social categories or \_\_\_\_\_ groupings.
- ◆ Some level of in-group loyalty is normal – creates sense of \_\_\_\_\_, trust, and support.

#### **Negative social consequences occur when there is:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ identification with one's in-group ("my group is superior").
- Stereotyping toward the out-group.
- Social \_\_\_\_\_, hostility, or discrimination toward out-group members.

### EXAMPLE

What is a potential positive consequence of in-group identification? What is a potential negative consequence?

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### PRACTICE

Which of the following scenarios is an example of in-group favoritism?

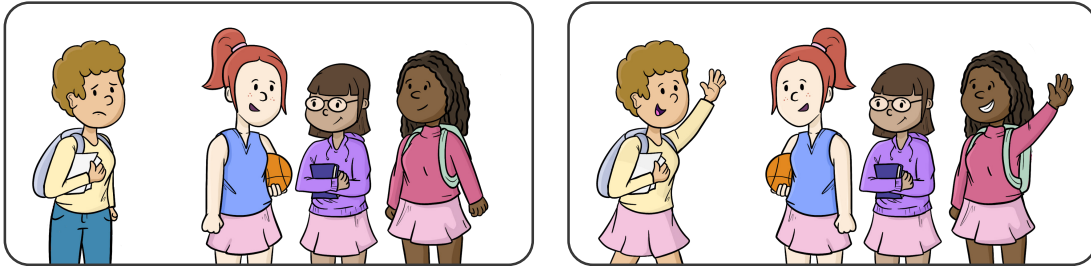
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- A child who shares their toys with all of their classmates, regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity.
- A judge rules impartially, despite the fact that she considers the defendant a family friend.
- A woman volunteers at an organization that serves people of all different backgrounds.
- A hiring manager favors applicants who attended the same sorority as her.

## TOPIC: TYPES OF GROUPS

### Reference Groups

- ◆ Sometimes we use groups to assess our own behaviors and accomplishments.
- ◆ **Reference Group:** Group that people \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to.
  - Provide a reference point for norms, \_\_\_\_\_, and life achievements.
- ◆ Common reference groups include family, \_\_\_\_\_, and colleagues.



- ◆ Groups that you do \_\_\_\_\_ belong to can also act as reference groups (ex: celebrities).

### **EXAMPLE**

Maya often compares herself to a handful of social media influencers, who are very wealthy and live luxurious lifestyles. Maya is currently working part-time while attending college and constantly feels that her life is inadequate. For Maya, these influencers are functioning as a/an:

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- a) In-group                      b) Primary group                      c) Reference group                      d) Secondary group