

A Friendly Puzzle

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The flavor text suggests we are looking for homophones, and seemingly homophones of something meaning “friend”. We eventually notice that these homophones all seem to end in “mate”. The answers are also in alphabetical order. Indexing into each answer using the number in parentheses gives 19 letters.

Clue	Answer	Index	Letter
A friend who is a little orphan	Animate	4	M
A friend authorized to act as a substitute for another	Approximate	6	X
A friend who likes cars	Automate	7	T
A friend from Prague	Checkmate	8	T
A friend who likes bouldering	Climate	5	A
A Néhiyaw friend	Cremate	7	E
A tenth of a friend	Decimate	1	D
A friend that comes in pairs	Diplomate	5	O
A friend from Tallinn	Estimate	4	I
A friend in 2D	Flatmate	8	E
A fashionable friend	Inmate	2	N
A friend who is the basic monetary unit of Peru from 1985 to 1990	Intimate	2	N
A friend who tosses their trash in the street	Littermate	6	R
A friend who gets a yellow card in soccer	Penultimate	4	U
A friend who makes nosy inquiries	Primate	3	I
A friend to sail with	Shipmate	1	S
A friend who is a spiritual force	Soulmate	4	L
A friend who is similar to old bread	Stalemate	5	E
A friend who does addition	Summate	5	A

Ordering the extracted letters according to the blanks at the bottom (by clue number) gives the clue phrase: **ONE IS A DENTAL MIXTURE.**

A dental mixture is an amalgam, which leads to the final solution: **AMALGAMATE**.