

# An Immigrant's Journey: Finding Home in a New Culture

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

## INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

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<https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/immigrants-journey-finding-home-new-culture>



## Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** Maria arrived in the United States from Mexico five years ago, filled with dreams of a better life. She settled in a small town in Texas, where the warm sun and friendly faces made her feel hopeful and welcomed. At first, Maria struggled with the language barrier, often feeling isolated in a community that spoke mostly English. To overcome this challenge, she attended local ESL classes at the community center, where she met other immigrants facing similar difficulties. Slowly, Maria began to communicate more easily, and she started to make friends who shared their own stories of migration and adaptation. These connections helped her feel less alone in her new environment and provided her with a support network.
- B** As time passed, Maria embraced her new culture while also cherishing her roots. She began volunteering at a local food bank, where she met people from diverse backgrounds and learned about their experiences. Each week, she cooked traditional Mexican dishes for the volunteers, sharing her culture with others and fostering a sense of community. Maria also celebrated her heritage by participating in local festivals, where she showcased her beloved traditions through dance and music. Through these enriching experiences, she found a profound sense of belonging and purpose. Her journey was not just about adapting to a new culture but also about enriching it with her own unique contributions. Maria's story is a testament to the strength of the immigrant spirit and the importance of community in creating a home away from home, illustrating how immigrants can thrive and contribute positively to their new surroundings.

## Vocabulary Glossary

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Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
<b>isolated</b>	feeling alone or apart from others	<i>After moving to a new city, he often felt isolated until he made friends.</i>
<b>overcome</b>	to successfully deal with a problem or challenge	<i>She worked hard to overcome her fear of speaking in public.</i>
<b>embraced</b>	accepted something eagerly or willingly	<i>He embraced the chance to learn a new skill.</i>
<b>cherishing</b>	valuing something highly and treating it with care	<i>She cherishes the memories of her childhood home.</i>
<b>diverse</b>	including many different types of people or things	<i>The city is known for its diverse culture and traditions.</i>
<b>fostering</b>	encouraging the development or growth of something	<i>Teachers play a key role in fostering a love of learning.</i>
<b>profound</b>	very great or intense in feeling or quality	<i>The book had a profound effect on me.</i>
<b>testament</b>	something that shows or proves a fact	<i>Her success is a testament to her hard work and dedication.</i>

### Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. Moving to a new country can make someone feel \_\_\_\_\_ until they find friends.
2. With practice, he was able to \_\_\_\_\_ his difficulties with the language.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ the opportunity to learn about new cultures during her travels.
4. He spent his weekends \_\_\_\_\_ his garden, making it beautiful.
5. The event was attended by a \_\_\_\_\_ group of people from all over the world.
6. Her speech was a \_\_\_\_\_ to her passion for helping others.

## Comprehension Questions

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*These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.*

### Question 1

**Why did Maria decide to attend ESL classes?**

- A. To feel more connected to her roots
- B. To improve her English language skills
- C. To teach other immigrants
- D. To find a job in the community

### Question 2

**What did Maria do to share her culture with the community?**

- A. She opened a restaurant
- B. She organized cultural trips
- C. She cooked traditional dishes
- D. She taught Spanish classes

### Question 3

**What role did volunteering play in Maria's journey?**

- A. It made her feel more isolated
- B. It helped her learn about others
- C. It was a source of income
- D. It led her to find a new job

### Question 4

**How does the passage describe Maria's adaptation to her new culture?**

- A. She rejected her new culture completely
- B. She ignored her heritage
- C. She enriched the new culture with her traditions
- D. She struggled without success

### Question 5

#### What is one key message of Maria's story?

- A. Immigrants cannot thrive without losing their culture
- B. Community support is unnecessary for adaptation
- C. Immigrants can positively contribute to new cultures
- D. Language barriers are impossible to overcome

### Discussion & Writing Prompts

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*Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).*

1. In the passage, Maria attends ESL classes to overcome the language barrier. How important do you think language skills are in adapting to a new culture?

2. Maria volunteers at a local food bank and meets people from diverse backgrounds. How can volunteering play a role in cultural adaptation and community building?

3. Paragraph two mentions that Maria celebrates her heritage through dance and music at local festivals. How can cultural festivals promote understanding and acceptance in communities?

# Answer Key

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## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 C

Q3 B

Q4 C

Q5 C

## VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 isolated

FIB2 overcome

FIB3 embraced

FIB4 cherishing

FIB5 diverse

FIB6 testament

## Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

### 1. Why did Maria decide to attend ESL classes?

✓ B — To improve her English language skills

Maria attended ESL classes to overcome the language barrier, as mentioned in the passage.

✗ A — To feel more connected to her roots

The passage does not mention Maria attending ESL classes to connect with her roots.

✗ C — To teach other immigrants

Maria attended the classes as a student, not as a teacher.

✗ D — To find a job in the community

The passage does not state that Maria attended ESL classes to find a job.

### 2. What did Maria do to share her culture with the community?

✓ C — She cooked traditional dishes

Maria shared her culture by cooking traditional Mexican dishes, as stated in the passage.

✗ A — She opened a restaurant

The passage does not mention Maria opening a restaurant.

✗ B — She organized cultural trips

The passage does not mention Maria organizing trips.

✗ D — She taught Spanish classes

There is no mention of Maria teaching Spanish in the passage.

### 3. What role did volunteering play in Maria's journey?

✓ B — It helped her learn about others

Volunteering helped Maria meet people from diverse backgrounds and learn about their experiences.

✗ A — It made her feel more isolated

Volunteering helped her feel more connected, not isolated.

✗ C — It was a source of income

The passage does not mention volunteering as a source of income.

✗ D — It led her to find a new job

There is no indication that volunteering led to a new job for Maria.

#### 4. How does the passage describe Maria's adaptation to her new culture?

✓ C — She enriched the new culture with her traditions

Maria enriched her new culture with her own unique contributions, as mentioned in the passage.

✗ A — She rejected her new culture completely

*Maria embraced her new culture, not rejected it.*

✗ B — She ignored her heritage

*Maria cherished her heritage and shared it with others.*

✗ D — She struggled without success

*The passage describes Maria's successful adaptation.*

#### 5. What is one key message of Maria's story?

✓ C — Immigrants can positively contribute to new cultures

Maria's story shows how immigrants can thrive and contribute positively to their new surroundings.

✗ A — Immigrants cannot thrive without losing their culture

*The passage shows Maria thriving while cherishing her culture.*

✗ B — Community support is unnecessary for adaptation

*The passage highlights the importance of community support.*

✗ D — Language barriers are impossible to overcome

*Maria overcame language barriers, as mentioned in the passage.*

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Climate Migration Communities Move — <https://www.esl-tests.com/reading/b2/climate-migration-communities-move>