

From Tradition to Modernity: One Family's Cultural Transformation

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

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Reading Passage

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

- A** The Patel family has lived in the small village of Anandpur for generations. For years, they adhered to traditional customs, such as celebrating Diwali with elaborate rituals and wearing vibrant saris and kurtas. However, as the younger generation began to explore opportunities in nearby cities, a gradual shift in their cultural practices became apparent. Priya, the eldest daughter, moved to Mumbai for university and quickly embraced modern life, adopting new fashion trends and social habits. She often shared her experiences with her family during weekend visits, highlighting the differences between village life and urban living. The family listened with a mix of admiration and concern, wondering how this change would affect their tight-knit community.
- B** As time passed, the Patels found themselves at a crossroads. While they cherished their traditions, they also recognized the importance of adapting to the modern world. They began to blend their customs with new influences. For example, they now celebrate Diwali not only with traditional sweets and prayers but also by hosting a big party that includes friends from the city. This fusion of old and new has brought them closer as a family, fostering discussions about identity, values, and the future. The younger siblings, inspired by Priya, are also pursuing higher education and exploring diverse lifestyles. The Patels' journey reflects the broader transformation many families face in a rapidly changing society, where the past and present coexist and shape their identities.

Vocabulary Glossary

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

| WORD / PHRASE | DEFINITION | EXAMPLE SENTENCE |
|-------------------|--|--|
| adhered | when someone follows or sticks to something, like a rule or belief | <i>She adhered to the diet her doctor recommended.</i> |
| elaborate | having a lot of details or many parts | <i>The wedding had an elaborate cake with five layers.</i> |
| rituals | activities done in a set way, often as part of a ceremony | <i>Every morning, he follows the same rituals of breakfast and a walk.</i> |
| embraced | when someone accepts something new with enthusiasm | <i>She embraced the idea of working from home.</i> |
| fusion | a mix of different things into one | <i>The restaurant offers a fusion of Italian and Japanese dishes.</i> |
| admiration | a feeling of great respect and liking for someone or something | <i>His bravery earned him admiration from all his friends.</i> |
| identity | who or what someone or something is | <i>Her cultural identity is important to her.</i> |
| crossroads | a point where an important decision needs to be made | <i>He was at a crossroads in his career and had to choose a new path.</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. The family _____ to their traditions but also welcomed modern influences.
2. Their new Diwali celebrations included an _____ party with city friends.
3. The _____ performed at the festival were beautiful and meaningful.
4. Priya _____ her new lifestyle in the city with excitement.
5. The new dish was a _____ of Indian and Chinese flavors.
6. She looked at the painting with _____, impressed by its beauty.

Comprehension Questions

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

What did Priya often share with her family during visits?

- A. Stories of modern fashion and social habits.
- B. Concerns about village life.
- C. Traditional recipes from Mumbai.
- D. Plans to return to the village.

Question 2

Why did the Patel family start hosting city friends during Diwali?

- A. To blend traditional customs with new influences.
- B. To teach city friends about village life.
- C. To impress their city friends with village traditions.
- D. To celebrate Diwali in a traditional way.

Question 3

How did the Patel family's view on traditions change over time?

- A. They began to see the value in both tradition and modernity.
- B. They stopped following any traditions.
- C. They became more traditional and rejected modern influences.
- D. They ignored their traditional values completely.

Question 4

What is the main purpose of the passage?

- A. To show how one family balances tradition and modernity.
- B. To criticize people who leave villages for cities.
- C. To explain why traditional customs are outdated.
- D. To describe the city life of Priya in detail.

Question 5

What does the family's journey in the passage symbolize?

- A. The blending of old and new in a changing society.
- B. The decline of village life in modern times.
- C. The challenges of moving to a new city.
- D. The loss of cultural identity over time.

Discussion & Writing Prompts

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

1. Paragraph A describes Priya's adoption of new fashion trends after moving to Mumbai. How might fashion influence personal identity and cultural change?

2. The passage mentions that the Patel family now celebrates Diwali with city friends in addition to traditional practices. What are the benefits and challenges of integrating new customs into traditional celebrations?

3. The passage notes that the Patel family is at a crossroads between tradition and modernity. What factors might influence a family's decision to adapt their cultural practices?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 A

Q2 A

Q3 A

Q4 A

Q5 A

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 adhered

FIB2 elaborate

FIB3 rituals

FIB4 embraced

FIB5 fusion

FIB6 admiration

Comprehension Question Explanations

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

1. What did Priya often share with her family during visits?

✓ A — Stories of modern fashion and social habits. Priya shared her experiences of modern life, including fashion trends.

✗ B — Concerns about village life. *The passage does not mention Priya expressing concerns about village life.*

✗ C — Traditional recipes from Mumbai. *The passage does not mention Priya sharing recipes.*

✗ D — Plans to return to the village. *The passage does not mention Priya planning to return to the village.*

2. Why did the Patel family start hosting city friends during Diwali?

✓ A — To blend traditional customs with new influences. They blended customs by including city friends in their Diwali celebrations.

✗ B — To teach city friends about village life. *The passage does not mention teaching city friends about village life.*

✗ C — To impress their city friends with village traditions. *The focus was on blending influences, not impressing friends.*

✗ D — To celebrate Diwali in a traditional way. *They combined traditional and modern ways, not just traditional.*

3. How did the Patel family's view on traditions change over time?

✓ A — They began to see the value in both tradition and modernity. The family learned to appreciate and blend both traditional and modern elements.

✗ B — They stopped following any traditions. *They did not stop following traditions; they combined them with new ones.*

✗ C — They became more traditional and rejected modern influences. *They did not reject modern influences; they embraced them.*

✗ D — They ignored their traditional values completely. *They did not ignore traditional values; they adapted them.*

4. What is the main purpose of the passage?

✓ A — To show how one family balances tradition and modernity.

The passage illustrates how the Patel family balances their traditions with modern influences.

✗ B — To criticize people who leave villages for cities.

The passage does not criticize people moving to cities.

✗ C — To explain why traditional customs are outdated.

It does not argue that customs are outdated; it shows adaptation.

✗ D — To describe the city life of Priya in detail.

The passage does not focus solely on Priya's city life.

5. What does the family's journey in the passage symbolize?

✓ A — The blending of old and new in a changing society.

The family's journey represents how old and new coexist and shape identities.

✗ B — The decline of village life in modern times.

The passage focuses on adaptation, not decline.

✗ C — The challenges of moving to a new city.

The passage does not primarily address moving challenges.

✗ D — The loss of cultural identity over time.

It shows adaptation, not loss of identity.

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