

READING

Exercise 1

Read the text about living in a society with many different cultures, and decide if the sentences are *True* or *False*. If there is not enough information to choose *True* or *False*, choose *Doesn't say*.

Maria's View of Multicultural Life

In today's global society, more and more people are no longer living in the countries in which they were born. This means that there is a huge mix of cultures and ideas in schools, workplaces and residential areas.

I came to the UK last year from Venezuela. It wasn't easy at first because my English wasn't fluent. However, I've enjoyed being with people from many different countries. We have the chance to learn about different traditions and cultures and to participate in different celebrations. Most people seem very tolerant and accepting of my arrival and the village community where I live have helped my family a lot.

In schools where there is a large number of people from different backgrounds, I think students benefit from a better understanding of the world. The students in my class are all interested in learning about my life in Caracas. They have welcomed me into their world and I have made some good friends. It can be hard starting a new school in your own country. Think how much more difficult it would be in another country.

The school is very multicultural and we celebrate the traditions of each country represented, which means that we often have parties. Tomorrow we're having a Venezuelan party and all my family is helping to prepare the food for it. I believe that sharing food is a wonderful way of helping people to understand each other better. I have been able to show the class some videos about my country during geography lessons. Talking to people who live in different parts of the world is a great way to learn.

Next week my father is coming into school to give a talk about farming in our country and what his job here involves. Most of the non-English students in the school are here because their parents work with large multinational companies. However, I've met one or two who had to leave their homes because there was a lot of unemployment in their countries.

Without immigration, our countries would be less interesting.

- 1 Today, there can be many different cultures where we work.
- 2 Maria couldn't speak any English when she arrived in the UK.
- 3 Maria enjoys being in a multicultural class.
- 4 Maria thinks the village community didn't do enough to help her family.
- 5 Maria says that students want to learn about her culture.
- 6 Maria thinks that there are too many parties in the school.
- 7 Maria believes that sharing a meal together is a good way of making friends.
- 8 The students loved Maria's videos.
- 9 Maria's father is going to tell the students about living in a Venezuelan city.
- 10 Many students in Maria's class came to live in the UK because there was no work for their families in their own countries.