

Growing up a British Asian

I **am born / have been born / was born** in a town called Blackburn,

In the north-west of England, and **have lived / lived / was living** there till

I **had left / left / was leaving** home at the age of eighteen.

My parents **had moved / have moved / used to move** to England from India during the 70s.

As a child, I **have been / had been / went** to my local school and, of course

I **have spoken / spoke / had spoken English** with a local accent, just like all the other kids. But home was very different;

we **have lived / had lived / lived** in a kind of little in India, with a huge extended family of uncles and aunts.

I **remember / am remembering / have remembered**

feeling part of this thing

called “family”, and an even bigger thing called “India”.

I suppose my family really **have influenced /**

influenced / were influencing me

while I **had grown up / used to grow up /**

was growing up.

They often **talked / have talked / used to talk**

about India as “home” – Even though...



at that time, **I had never been / was never going / have never been**

there!

To me, **it doesn't seem / isn't seeming / wasn't seeming** at all strange to grow up

as part of two cultures. I **am always thinking / have always thought /**

was always thinking that growing up with two cultures is a gift, and not

a disadvantage. Now, I **have / am having / had** a child of my own, and

I **am wanting / have wanted / want** her to get in touch with her Indian roots.

So, we **are planning / plan / used to plan** a visit there later this year.

All her Indian cousins **are looking forward / looks forward / looked forward**

to meeting her!