

Community

3.1  07 Look at the following list of opinions about groups and society and make sure you understand all of the vocabulary used. Listen to a talk and tick the opinions you hear expressed.

- 1 When people *conform*, it helps make society more *peaceful*.
- 2 Some people *obey social customs* without question.
- 3 *Conventional* people help keep our *traditions* alive.
- 4 Some multicultural societies focus more on developing *traditional ways* than others.
- 5 As time passes, our idea of *what is normal* changes.
- 6 Some people try to be *different from the group*.
- 7 Some people create *an alternative social group* and *rebel against the traditional way of life*.
- 8 In the 1970s, it was *usual* for hippies to wear second-hand clothes.

3.2  07 PARAPHRASE Now listen again and note the words and phrases with a similar meaning to the words in italics in 3.1. You may need to listen several times and/or read recording script 07 at the back of the book.

Conform

Obey

Conventional

Traditional ways

What is normal

Different from the group

An alternative social group

Usual

Script mp3 07

Track 07

One of the main factors in ensuring a harmonious society is that there are clear, established patterns in the way we conduct ourselves. And we expect people to behave according to our accepted standards of behaviour. There are those who observe these social mores religiously, and these people are often labelled 'conservative'. It's actually through such people that our heritage is preserved. But then, gradually, over time, as our society becomes more and more multicultural, there is a blending of these customs and we gradually come to redefine the norm. If we enter a new group, we notice the unwritten rules and social norms of that group. Those who fail to observe these norms are inevitably excluded from that group. Of course, there will always be those who seek to break away from tradition, and to rebel. These people see themselves as unconventional in every sense of the word. They create a counter-culture and they shun mainstream values. However, ironically, in doing so, they inevitably also create their own new code of behaviour with its own set of unwritten rules. For example, becoming a hippy in the 1970s required you to don the accepted casual dress of a hippy rather than the obligatory suit and tie that was standard at that time.

4 COLLOCATION The words in the box collocate with either *social* or *group*. Use the words to complete the sentences.

behaviour decline interaction
member minority pressure

- 1 Many people fear that relaxing our laws on alcohol consumption will lead to social _____.
- 2 Each new group _____ is expected to undergo a special induction programme.
- 3 In developed countries, smoking is now seen as anti-social _____.
- 4 Social _____ is very important for new migrants if they are to feel part of their new community.
- 5 _____ groups tend to have a lot less power in the community than more dominant groups.
- 6 People often give in to peer group _____ to conform, simply to make life easier.

V Vocabulary note

The following are collocations with the word *community*: *a vibrant community*, *a close-knit community*, *the farming community*, *the rural community*, *the ethnic community*. Use your dictionary to help make a list of some more.

5.3 Look at the following questions and the opening phrases below. Try to answer the questions, beginning with one of the opening phrases.

- 1 What type of activity do you prefer to do alone and with a group?
- 2 How important do you think it is to be an active part of the community?
- 3 Why do you think that some people find it difficult to join in certain activities?
- 4 What can we do to help new people feel part of a group?
- 5 Some people think the government should help people feel part of the community. Do you agree?

Hmm, that's a difficult/interesting question because ...

Well, not really, because I feel ...

Oh, I think it's essential. I mean ...

Well, it really depends on the individual. I think some people, especially ...

Well, yes, to a certain extent, but I think ...