



1. Read the text again and for questions 1-5, choose the best answer 1, 2, 3 or 4.

Changes in life

Rite of Passage

When my best friend Alisha first invited me to go with her to her cousin's wedding in India, I leapt at the chance. A wedding is very important to Hindus because it signifies the marriage of two families, not just a couple. It sounded so exotic and I wanted to see it for myself!

When we walked out of the airport into the steaming hot day, a large group of Alisha's relatives were waiting excitedly to greet us. After having greeted grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, from the oldest to the youngest according to tradition, we caught a taxi and I got my first taste of the hustle and bustle of Jaipur. Bicycle rickshaws bumped along beside us as I admired the architecture of the pink city – Jaipur's nickname from the colour of its buildings.

That night was the Sangeet, the first night of the wedding celebrations. The garden at the bride's house was full of brightly-coloured decorations and women wearing beautiful multi-coloured saris. One of Alisha's aunts soon pulled me up to dance. Everyone seemed to know the steps – apart from me, that is! I really enjoyed watching the modern Bollywood* dances. My favourite of all was the dandidas, a traditional dance using sticks. In the past this party used to last for about ten days!

The following afternoon, it was the Mehndi party. Mehndi is the decoration of the hands and feet with a dye called henna. All of the women sat under a big tent and some artists drew amazing designs on our hands. The designs last for weeks and are a symbol of future prosperity and happiness. Later, Alisha and her

relatives taught me some dance steps for the wedding ceremony the following day!

On the morning of the wedding, Alisha surprised me with a gift – a green and gold silk sari – and helped me to put it on. At first I felt a bit awkward, but soon I realised it was very comfortable to wear! The groom arrived wearing white and riding a white horse with a marching band closely following him. It was a spectacular entrance, but it was nothing compared to the bride! She was wearing a magnificent sari of red and gold velvet with stunning gold jewellery. Then the bride and groom sat under a mandap, a decorated tent with a small fire in the middle. During the ceremony, they seemed to be doing lots of different symbolic things like walking around the fire or exchanging flower garlands. After the ceremony, we ate lots of traditional Indian dishes – the ones inside banana leaves were my favourite! Then, it was time for more dancing. Thankfully, this time I didn't seem to embarrass myself so much!

I feel lucky to have met such warm people and have experienced a traditional Indian wedding. It was like being at the fairytale wedding of an Indian prince and princess!

* Hindu cinema consisting mainly of musicals.

1. The writer wanted to go to the wedding because _____

1. she had always wanted to go to India.
2. her best friend Alisha was the bride.
3. she knew it would be interesting.
4. Alisha needed someone to go with her.

2. On the way from the airport, the writer _____.

1. looked at the unusual buildings.
2. chatted to Alisha's relatives.
3. got stuck in traffic.
4. rode on a rickshaw.

3. At the Sangeet, the guests _____

1. put up decorations.
2. celebrate for ten days.
3. decorate each other's hands.
4. take part in different dances.

4 At the wedding, the writer seems to have been most impressed by _____.

1. the ceremony under the mandap.
2. the bride's appearance.
3. the food.
4. the groom's entrance.

5 The writer thinks that by the end of the celebrations _____

1. her dancing skills had improved.
2. she felt awkward.
3. it got very hot.
4. she had good luck.

2. Fill in the words from the text to form word-combinations:

fairy tale flower steaming wedding future hustle multi-coloured marching

1 _____ **hot day**

2 _____ **and bustle**

3 _____ **celebrations**

4 _____ **saris**

5 _____ **prosperity**

6 _____ **band**

7 _____ **garland**

8 _____ **wedding**

3. Choose the correct word. Check in your dictionaries.

1. She isn't used to the hustle and _____ of the big city.

buzz / bustle

2. She _____ us with a big warm smile.

greeted / waved

3. It was the best holiday we've ever _____ .

felt / experienced.

4. The party _____ until the early hours.

took / lasted

5. I felt very _____ in the long red dress.

clumsy / awkward

6. He _____ at the chance of travelling to India.

leapt / hopped

7. It was such a _____ hot day that we decided to go to the beach.

steaming / simmering

8. He made a spectacular _____ on a white horse.

entry / entrance

