How people celebrate Diwali worldwide

LEVEL A2/B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. What festivals or special days does your family enjoy?
2. Do you like lights and candles at celebrations? Why or why not?
3. What is your favourite sweet or dessert to share with friends?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

- **festival** — a special time with celebrations, often every year
- **celebrate** — to do something special because it is a happy or important day
- **calendar** — a system that shows the days and months of the year
- **lamp** — a light, like a small diya used during Diwali
- **decorate** — to make a place look nice with colours or objects
- **fireworks** — bright lights and bangs in the sky used for celebrations
- **prayers** — words people say to a god or gods
- **rangoli** — a colourful floor design made with powder, sand or flowers

III. READING

Diwali is a five-day Festival of Lights celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains worldwide. It usually falls between October and November, and the exact date changes because the Hindu calendar is based on the Moon. The name comes from the Sanskrit deepavali, meaning rows of lighted lamps.

People decorate homes with rangoli and small oil lamps called diyas, and many enjoy fireworks and sweets. Families clean their houses, exchange gifts and say prayers for good fortune. Some buy gold or silver for luck, and many visit friends and temples. Each faith marks its own stories.

Hindus celebrate Rama and Sita returning to Ayodhya after a 14-year exile, and the goddess Durga defeating the demon Mahisha. Sikhs remember the release of the sixth guru, Hargobind, in 1619, and that the Golden Temple's foundation stone was laid on Diwali in 1577. Jains mark Lord Mahavira reaching Moksha.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News:** *"Everything you need to know about Diwali". Original article linked at* theenglishwire.com.

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who celebrates Diwali, according to the text?
2. When does Diwali usually happen each year?
3. What does the word deepavali mean?
4. Name two common ways people celebrate during Diwali.
5. What two events do Sikhs remember at Diwali?

V. DISCUSSION

1. What kind of lights make a celebration feel special for you?
2. Do you prefer quiet home parties or big firework shows? Why?
3. What sweet or snack should be part of a perfect festival day?
4. How could your school mark a festival of lights safely and kindly?



VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Should / ought to

Use should/ought to + base verb to give advice or recommendations. Both mean the same; use either. For negatives, use shouldn't / ought not to + verb.

*"Students **should share** sweets with neighbours."*

*"Visitors **ought to greet** elders politely at Diwali."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with should/ought to + the verb.

1. Students (decorate) ___ with rangoli and diyas.
2. If you visit a temple, you (remove) ___ your shoes.
3. Before using fireworks, students (ask) ___ their parents.
4. During Diwali, families (clean) ___ the house together.
5. Students (not/light) ___ fireworks without an adult.

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.



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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8 minutes vocabulary, 10 minutes reading, 8–10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check pronunciation of Diwali, diya, rangoli, Ayodhya, Hargobind and Mahavira. Use pictures of rangoli, diyas and sweets to support meaning.
- Run the reading as a jigsaw in pairs: Student A highlights how people celebrate; Student B highlights what each faith remembers. Sensitivity: the story involves religion; keep discussion factual and respectful, and invite students to speak generally rather than about personal beliefs.
- Differentiation: for stronger learners, ask for three details from different paragraphs; for support, provide a word bank (festival, lamps, sweets, fireworks, prayers) and let students underline answers before speaking.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Ask for examples from birthdays, concerts or school events; list top three as a class.
2. Take a quick vote first, then pair students from different sides to share reasons.
3. Have students show a photo on their phone (or describe) and explain why it fits the day.
4. Brainstorm safety ideas on the board (adult help, clear paths, no flames near paper), then choose two.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Survey: In groups, design and run a 5-question class survey on favourite Diwali decorations and sweets; present results in 5 minutes.

Presentation: In pairs, make a 60-second mini-presentation explaining one Diwali tradition (diyas, rangoli, gifts) with two facts from the text.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Should / ought to

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.



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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who celebrates Diwali, according to the text?
   Millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains.
2. When does Diwali usually happen each year?
   Between October and November; the date changes with the Moon-based calendar.
3. What does the word deepavali mean?
   Rows of lighted lamps.
4. Name two common ways people celebrate during Diwali.
   Decorating homes with rangoli and diyas; also fireworks, sweets, gifts or prayers.
5. What two events do Sikhs remember at Diwali?
   The release of the sixth guru, Hargobind, in 1619, and the laying of the Golden Temple's foundation stone in 1577.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use should/ought to + base verb to give advice or recommendations. Both mean the same; use either. For negatives, use shouldn't / ought not to + verb. (Examples constructed.)

*"Students **should share** sweets with neighbours."*

*"Visitors **ought to greet** elders politely at Diwali."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with should/ought to + the verb.

1. Students ___ with rangoli and diyas.
   should/ought to decorate
2. If you visit a temple, you ___ your shoes.
   should/ought to remove
3. Before using fireworks, students ___ their parents. **should/ought to ask**
4. During Diwali, families ___ the house together.
   should/ought to clean
5. Students ___ fireworks without an adult.
   shouldn't/should not/ought not to light