

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

**Preparation: multiple choice**

Choose the correct definition of the word in CAPITALS. Look at the word in context to help you.

1. Holi marks the beginning of spring and celebrates good winning over EVIL.
  - a. a person with a lot of energy
  - b. the force of things that are bad
  - c. generous and kind
  
2. There is a spirit of togetherness and EQUALITY.
  - a. being positive
  - b. working together and thinking the same thing
  - c. being equal, having the same status and rights
  
3. The demon Holika was burnt in a fire, according to the LEGEND.
  - a. light and heat
  - b. a story from the past that some people believe is true
  - c. the spirit of evil
  
4. The next day is the CHAOTIC and noisy festival of colours.
  - a. causing fun and laughter
  - b. with many loud sounds
  - c. completely confused and disorganised
  
5. People CHASE each other and throw coloured paint powder over each other.
  - a. to run after someone trying to catch them
  - b. to run to try to escape a place of danger
  - c. to sit quietly
  
6. Holi has a friendly and INCLUSIVE SPIRIT.
  - a. an atmosphere of including everybody
  - b. a long tradition
  - c. a lot of people who want to celebrate it
  
7. It is always good to know about the ORIGINS and meaning of the festival.
  - a. the traditional things to do at a particular festival
  - b. the roots or starting point of where something comes from
  - c. where exactly you need to go for something
  
8. It is good to understand the meaning of the festival even if you do not IDENTIFY AS Hindu.
  - a. understand
  - b. feel the same as
  - c. call yourself, say you are

## 1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- |    |  |             |              |
|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Holi is a very old Hindu tradition.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Only Hindus celebrate Holi.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Holi is on 1 March – the first official day of spring.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Holi is mainly a festival for young people.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Holi activities start early in the morning.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | The famous festival of colours is the second day of Holi.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | People go to Holi-themed events dressed in very colourful clothes.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | The writer says that when the photos look good on social media, it doesn't matter what the festival means. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

## 2. Check your grammar: gap fill

Write one word to fill the gaps.

- Holi \_\_\_\_\_ celebrated in India and Nepal.
- The dates change each year according \_\_\_\_\_ the full moon, but it is normally \_\_\_\_\_ March.
- It is a time \_\_\_\_\_ forgive people and repair broken relationships.
- Recently, Holi-themed events \_\_\_\_\_ become popular with a new generation in Europe and North America.
- \_\_\_\_\_ year, bigger and bigger crowds of people go to Holi events in London.
- People arrive dressed \_\_\_\_\_ white T-shirts and return covered \_\_\_\_\_ head to toe in bright colours.
- There are paint-throwing parties \_\_\_\_\_ music festivals.
- It is always good to know about the origins and meaning of the festival though, even if you do not identify \_\_\_\_\_ Hindu.

### Discussion

Do you celebrate Holi? Would you like to?