

Moving to a Different City

Reading Passage, Comprehension & Practice Questions

Moving to a Different City

Have you ever thought about leaving everything familiar behind and starting fresh somewhere new? Moving to a different city can feel exciting and frightening at the same time. Before you read, think about these two questions: **What do you think is the most difficult part of moving to a new city?** And **what could make the experience easier or more enjoyable?**

Reading Passage: A New City, A New Chapter

When Priya packed the last box in her small Manchester flat, she felt a mix of nerves and excitement. She was moving to Bristol for a new job — a position she had been trying to get for over a year. Her friends had already thrown her a leaving party, and now, standing in an empty room, the reality finally hit her. She was really doing this.

The first few weeks in Bristol were harder than she had expected. Although her new colleagues were friendly, she didn't know anyone outside of work. Her flat, which was close to the city centre, felt quiet and a little lonely in the evenings. She had to figure out which buses to take, where the nearest supermarket was, and how to find a good GP. Simple tasks that she had never thought about in Manchester suddenly required real effort. However, instead of giving up, she decided to be more proactive. She joined a running club that met on Sunday mornings and signed up for a pottery class at a local community centre.

Within a couple of months, things had started to change. The pottery class had introduced her to a small group of people who met for coffee on weekends, and the running club gave her a reason to explore different parts of the city. She was beginning to feel at home. Bristol, with its colourful street art and lively harbour area, was starting to win her over. Looking back, Priya says the hardest part wasn't the logistics of moving — it was giving herself permission to feel unsettled for a while. "If you wait until everything feels perfect," she says, "you might miss the good parts that are already there."

Key Vocabulary in Context

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech	Definition	Example Sentence
nerves	noun (plural)	a feeling of worry or anxiety before something important	She was full of nerves on her first day at the new school.
reality hit	phrase (verb phrase)	when something suddenly feels truly real and not just a plan	The reality hit him when he saw his name on the contract.

proactive	adjective	taking action to make things happen rather than waiting	Being proactive at work can lead to better opportunities.
community centre	noun phrase	a local building where people can attend classes or social activities	The community centre offers free yoga classes on Tuesdays.
logistics	noun (plural)	the practical details involved in organising something	The logistics of moving to another country can be complicated.
unsettled	adjective	feeling uncomfortable, anxious, or not at ease in a situation	It is normal to feel unsettled during big life changes.
win someone over	phrasal verb	to gradually make someone like or accept something	The city's friendly atmosphere won him over within a month.
figure out	phrasal verb	to find a solution or understand something after thinking about it	It took her a week to figure out the local transport system.

Reading Strategies & Comprehension Tips

Skimming for the Main Idea

Read the passage quickly the first time without stopping. Ask yourself: *Who is this story about, and what is the main experience being described?* You should be able to answer this after just one fast read-through, without understanding every word.

Scanning for Specific Details

If a question asks you about a specific fact — for example, which city Priya moved from, or what activities she joined — scan the text quickly for names, places, or key nouns. You do not need to re-read the whole passage every time.

Understanding Sequence and Change

This passage describes how Priya's feelings *changed over time*. Pay attention to time expressions such as *"the first few weeks"*, *"within a couple of months"*, and *"looking back"*. These words signal important shifts in the story and are often tested in comprehension questions.

Making Inferences

Not every idea in the text is stated directly. For example, the passage does not say *"Priya was unhappy at first"* using those exact words, but the details about loneliness and effort suggest this. Practice reading between the lines to understand implied meaning.

Common Reading Pitfalls & Traps

Confusing Cities

The passage mentions two cities — Manchester and Bristol. Be careful not to confuse where Priya *came from* with where she *moved to*. Questions may try to test this distinction deliberately.

Missing the Tone Shift

A common mistake is to describe the whole passage as either positive or negative. In fact, the tone *changes*. The beginning is mixed (nervous and excited), the middle is difficult, and the ending is hopeful. Read the full passage before answering any questions about attitude or feeling.

Taking Quotes Out of Context

Priya's final quote — *"you might miss the good parts that are already there"* — can be misread as negative. In context, it is actually a piece of encouraging advice. Always read the sentences around a quote before deciding what it means.

Overusing General Knowledge

You might have your own opinions about moving cities, but always base your answers on what the passage actually says. Even if something seems logical, check that the text supports it before selecting an answer.

Quick Summary

This passage follows Priya, a young woman who moves from Manchester to Bristol for a new job. At first, she struggles with loneliness and practical challenges. However, by joining local activities and allowing herself time to adjust, she gradually settles in and begins to enjoy her new city. The passage explores themes of change, resilience, and finding community in an unfamiliar place.

Now read the passage carefully and complete Exercise 1 (Multiple Choice) and Exercise 2 (Fill-in-the-gap dropdown) below.

Moving to a Different City – Practice Test

B1 | Reading Comprehension Exercises: Multiple Choice & Fill-in-the-Gap Dropdown (20 Questions)

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 Why was Priya moving to Bristol?

- ☐ A She wanted to be closer to her family.
- ☐ B She had accepted a new job there.
- ☐ C She was unhappy with her flat in Manchester.
- ☐ D She had friends who lived there.

2 How long had Priya been trying to get the job in Bristol?

- ☐ A A few weeks.
- ☐ B Several months.
- ☐ C Over a year.
- ☐ D About two years.

3 What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- ☐ A Priya enjoyed exploring Bristol from the beginning.
- ☐ B Priya found the first weeks difficult but decided to take action.
- ☐ C Priya's new colleagues helped her settle in quickly.
- ☐ D Priya regretted leaving Manchester after a short time.

4 Which of the following made Priya feel lonely in her new flat?

- ☐ A Her flat was far from the city centre.
- ☐ B Her colleagues were unfriendly at work.
- ☐ C She did not know anyone outside of work.
- ☐ D She had no supermarket nearby.

5 What does the word 'proactive' most likely mean in the context of the passage?

- ☐ A Feeling sorry for yourself and doing nothing.
- ☐ B Asking other people to solve your problems.
- ☐ C Taking action yourself to improve your situation.
- ☐ D Waiting patiently until things get better on their own.

6 What two activities did Priya join to meet new people?

- A** A book club and a cooking class.
- B** A running club and a pottery class.
- C** A yoga class and a photography club.
- D** A swimming club and an art class.

7 What was the cause of Priya starting to feel more at home in Bristol?

- A** She moved to a bigger and more comfortable flat.
- B** Her new job became easier and less stressful.
- C** She made friends through the activities she joined.
- D** Her Manchester friends came to visit her regularly.

8 According to the passage, what features of Bristol did Priya begin to enjoy?

- A** Its large shopping centres and modern transport.
- B** Its quiet parks and traditional architecture.
- C** Its colourful street art and lively harbour area.
- D** Its universities and cultural museums.

9 What does Priya say was the hardest part of moving?

- A** Finding a flat close to her new workplace.
- B** Giving herself permission to feel unsettled for a while.
- C** Dealing with the practical tasks like finding a GP.
- D** Saying goodbye to her friends at the leaving party.

10 What can we infer about Priya's feelings at the end of the passage?

- A** She is planning to move back to Manchester soon.
- B** She wishes she had moved to a different city instead.
- C** She is glad she moved and has learned something from the experience.
- D** She is still feeling lonely but is trying to stay positive.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap Dropdown (Questions 11–20)

11 When Priya packed the last box in her small Manchester flat, she felt a mix of nerves and ____.

- A** excitement
- B** sadness
- C** confidence

12 She was moving to Bristol for a new job — a position she had been trying to get for over a ____.

- A** year
- B** month
- C** decade

13 Her friends had already thrown her a ____ party before she left.

- A** leaving
- B** birthday
- C** welcome

14 Although her new colleagues were friendly, she didn't know anyone outside of ____.

- A** work
- B** Bristol
- C** her flat

15 Her flat, which was close to the city centre, felt quiet and a little ____ in the evenings.

- A** lonely
- B** boring
- C** uncomfortable

16 Instead of giving up, she decided to be more ____.

- A** proactive
- B** careful
- C** patient

17 She joined a running club that met on Sunday mornings and signed up for a ____ class at a local community centre.

- A** pottery
- B** cooking
- C** painting

18 The pottery class had introduced her to a small group of people who met for ____ on weekends.

- A** coffee
- B** lunch
- C** dinner

19 Bristol, with its colourful street art and lively ____ area, was starting to win her over.

- A** harbour
- B** shopping
- C** market

20 Priya says the hardest part wasn't the logistics of moving — it was giving herself permission to feel ____ for a while.

- A** unsettled
- B** worried
- C** homesick

Answer Key & Explanations

Moving to a Different City | B1

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** **Correct Answer: She had accepted a new job there.**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage clearly states that Priya was moving to Bristol **for a new job** — "*a position she had been trying to get for over a year.*" This was her main reason for leaving Manchester.
2. **C** **Correct Answer: Over a year.**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says the job was "*a position she had been trying to get for over a year.*" This tells us she worked hard for a long time before finally getting it.
3. **B** **Correct Answer: Priya found the first weeks difficult but decided to take action.**
✓ **Explanation:** The second paragraph describes how the move was **harder than expected** — she felt lonely and had to manage daily tasks alone. However, "*instead of giving up, she decided to be more proactive,*" showing she chose to act rather than quit.
4. **C** **Correct Answer: She did not know anyone outside of work.**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says "*she didn't know anyone outside of work*" and that her flat "*felt quiet and a little lonely in the evenings.*" Her social isolation outside the workplace was the key reason.
5. **C** **Correct Answer: Taking action yourself to improve your situation.**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Priya decided to be **proactive** instead of giving up. She then joined a running club and signed up for a pottery class — both are examples of *taking steps herself* to make life better, which is what **proactive** means.
6. **B** **Correct Answer: A running club and a pottery class.**
✓ **Explanation:** The text clearly states that Priya "*joined a running club that met on Sunday mornings and signed up for a pottery class at a local community centre.*" These were the two specific activities mentioned.
7. **C** **Correct Answer: She made friends through the activities she joined.**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage explains that the **pottery class** introduced her to people who met for coffee, and the **running club** helped her explore the city. These social connections are the reason she "*was beginning to feel at home.*"
8. **C** **Correct Answer: Its colourful street art and lively harbour area.**
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "*Bristol, with its colourful street art and lively harbour area, was starting to win her over.*" These are the exact details mentioned as things she was beginning to appreciate.
9. **B** **Correct Answer: Giving herself permission to feel unsettled for a while.**
✓ **Explanation:** Priya says directly that "*the hardest part wasn't the logistics of moving — it was giving herself permission to feel unsettled for a while.*" This is her personal opinion about the emotional challenge of moving.

10. **C** **Correct Answer: She is glad she moved and has learned something from the experience.**
✓ **Explanation:** By the end, Priya is **beginning to feel at home** and shares advice from her experience. Her quote — *"you might miss the good parts that are already there"* — implies she values what she has found and is **happy with her decision** to move.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** **Correct Answer: excitement**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says Priya felt **a mix of nerves and excitement**, showing she had two feelings at the same time — nervous but also happy about the change. *She felt a mix of nerves and excitement.*
12. **A** **Correct Answer: year**
✓ **Explanation:** The text clearly states that Priya had been trying to get the position for **over a year**, which shows she had worked hard and waited a long time for this job. *She had been trying to get the position for over a year.*
13. **A** **Correct Answer: leaving**
✓ **Explanation:** A **leaving party** is a party that people organise for someone who is about to move away or change jobs. The passage uses this exact phrase to describe what her friends did. *Her friends had already thrown her a leaving party.*
14. **A** **Correct Answer: work**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage explains that while her colleagues were friendly, Priya had no social connections **outside of work**, which made her feel lonely in the evenings. *She didn't know anyone outside of work.*
15. **A** **Correct Answer: lonely**
✓ **Explanation:** The word **lonely** describes the feeling of being alone and sad about it. The passage uses this word to show that Priya missed having people around her in the evenings. *Her flat felt quiet and a little lonely in the evenings.*
16. **A** **Correct Answer: proactive**
✓ **Explanation:** Being **proactive** means taking action yourself rather than waiting for things to happen. Priya chose to join clubs and activities instead of staying at home and feeling lonely. *She decided to be more proactive.*
17. **A** **Correct Answer: pottery**
✓ **Explanation:** The passage specifically mentions that Priya joined a **pottery class** at a local community centre as one of the steps she took to meet new people in Bristol. *She signed up for a pottery class at a local community centre.*
18. **A** **Correct Answer: coffee**
✓ **Explanation:** According to the passage, the people Priya met through the pottery class would get together for **coffee** on weekends, which helped her build a social life in Bristol. *A small group of people who met for coffee on weekends.*

19. **A** Correct Answer: **harbour**

✓ **Explanation:** The passage describes Bristol's **harbour area** as one of the attractive features of the city that helped Priya start to feel at home there. A harbour is a place near water where boats are kept. *Bristol's lively harbour area was starting to win her over.*

20. **A** Correct Answer: **unsettled**

✓ **Explanation:** Feeling **unsettled** means not feeling comfortable or at ease in a new situation. Priya says the real challenge was accepting that it was okay to feel this way rather than expecting everything to be perfect immediately. *It was giving herself permission to feel unsettled for a while.*

Score Guide

18–20 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
15–17 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
12–14 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–11 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.