

# My First Day at a New School

Reading Passage, Comprehension & Practice Questions

## My First Day at a New School

Starting at a new school can feel exciting and scary at the same time. A new building, new teachers, new faces — everything is different! Before you read, think about these two questions: **What things make a first day at school difficult?** And **what can help you feel better in a new place?** Keep your ideas in mind as you read Priya's story.

## Reading Passage: A Nervous Morning

Priya walks through the school gate and stops. The playground is very loud. Students are laughing and running everywhere. Priya does not know anyone. She holds her bag tightly and looks for the main office.

A girl with red trainers runs up to her. "Are you new? I'm Fatima!" she says. Priya smiles. "Yes. I can't find Room 7," she says. Fatima laughs. "I know! This school is very big. Come with me." They walk together down a long corridor. Priya feels a little better now.

In class, the teacher, Mr. Osei, gives Priya a seat near the window. She can see the green football pitch outside. The lesson is about maps, and Priya loves geography. She answers one question, and Mr. Osei says, "Excellent!" After class, Fatima asks, "Do you want to eat lunch together?" Priya says yes. It is not a perfect day, but it is a good start.

## Key Vocabulary in Context

| Word / Phrase | Part of Speech | Definition                                               | Example Sentence                                   |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| gate          | noun           | a door in a wall or fence that leads into a place        | We wait for our parents at the school gate.        |
| playground    | noun           | an outdoor area at school where students play            | The children run and laugh on the playground.      |
| tightly       | adverb         | in a firm, strong way; not loosely                       | She holds her brother's hand tightly in the crowd. |
| corridor      | noun           | a long passage inside a building with rooms on each side | The students walk quietly down the corridor.       |

|                  |           |                                                            |                                                            |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>pitch</b>     | noun      | an outdoor area of ground used for playing sport           | The boys play football on the pitch after school.          |
| <b>geography</b> | noun      | a school subject about countries, places, maps, and nature | We learn about rivers and mountains in geography class.    |
| <b>excellent</b> | adjective | very good; better than expected                            | The teacher says "Excellent!" when I get the answer right. |
| <b>perfect</b>   | adjective | completely right or without any problems                   | The weather is not perfect, but we still go to the park.   |

## Reading Strategies & Comprehension Tips

### Scanning for Key Details

When a question asks *where* something happens or *who* says something, do not read the whole passage again. **Scan quickly** — look for names (like *Priya*, *Fatima*, *Mr. Osei*) or places (like *Room 7*, *playground*, *corridor*). These words will guide you straight to the answer.

### Skimming for the Main Idea

Read the first and last sentences of each paragraph quickly. You will see that paragraph one is about Priya arriving, paragraph two is about meeting Fatima, and paragraph three is about the classroom. This tells you the text is about a girl's first day — from arriving to making a friend.

### Using Context to Understand New Words

You may not know the word *corridor*. Look at the sentence around it: "*They walk together down a long corridor.*" It connects two places in the school, so it must be a passageway or hallway. Use the sentences before and after to make a good guess.

### Noticing Feelings

At A1 level, questions often ask about how a character feels. Watch for small clues: "*holds her bag tightly*" shows Priya is nervous. "*Priya feels a little better now*" shows she is less worried. These details are important for comprehension questions.

## Common Reading Pitfalls & Traps

### Trap 1: Confusing Characters' Actions

Both Priya and Fatima speak in the passage. Read carefully to check *who* says each thing. For example, it is **Fatima** who says "Come with me," not Priya. If a question asks who speaks first, do not confuse them.

### Trap 2: The Word "perfect"

The last sentence says: "*It is not a perfect day, but it is a good start.*" Some students read this quickly and think Priya has a bad day. Be careful — she says it is a **good start**. The day is positive, just not completely without problems. The word *but* changes the meaning.

### Trap 3: Assuming the Lesson Subject

The lesson is about **maps**, which is part of **geography** class. A question might offer "history" or "art" as wrong answers. The text clearly says the lesson is about maps and that Priya loves geography — these are two connected facts, not two separate subjects.

### Trap 4: The Football Pitch

Priya can see the football pitch from her seat — she is not playing on it. Do not choose an answer that says Priya plays football. She is inside the classroom, looking through the window.

## Quick Summary

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In this passage, a girl called Priya arrives at a new school feeling nervous. She quickly meets a friendly student named Fatima, who helps her find her classroom. In class, Priya enjoys the geography lesson and answers a question well. By lunchtime, she already has a new friend. The story shows that a first day can be scary, but small moments — a friendly face, a subject you enjoy — can make a big difference.

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

# My First Day at a New School – Practice Test

A1 | Reading Comprehension Exercises: Multiple Choice & Fill-in-the-Gap Dropdown (20 Questions)

## Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

**1** Where does Priya stop at the beginning of the story?

- A** At the classroom door
- B** At the school gate
- C** At the main office
- D** At the football pitch

**2** Why does Priya feel nervous at first?

- A** Because she is late for class
- B** Because she does not like the school
- C** Because she does not know anyone
- D** Because her bag is very heavy

**3** What is Fatima wearing on her feet?

- A** Blue boots
- B** White shoes
- C** Red trainers
- D** Black sandals

**4** What room is Priya trying to find?

- A** Room 3
- B** Room 5
- C** Room 9
- D** Room 7

**5** How does Priya feel after Fatima offers to help her?

- A** More confused
- B** A little better
- C** Very excited
- D** Very tired

**6** What is the name of Priya's teacher?

- A** Mr. Fatima
- B** Mr. Priya
- C** Mr. Osei
- D** Mr. Ahmed

**7** Where is Priya's seat in the classroom?

- A** Near the door
- B** At the back of the room
- C** Next to Fatima
- D** Near the window

**8** What subject is the lesson about?

- A** History
- B** Mathematics
- C** Maps
- D** Science

**9** What does Mr. Osei say after Priya answers a question?

- A** "Very good!"
- B** "Try again!"
- C** "Excellent!"
- D** "Well done, Fatima!"

**10** How does the story end?

- A** Priya decides she hates the new school
- B** Fatima and Priya agree to eat lunch together
- C** Mr. Osei invites Priya to join the geography club
- D** Priya goes home early because she is unhappy

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

**11** Priya walks through the school \_\_\_\_ and stops.

- A** gate
- B** door
- C** hall

**12** The playground is very \_\_\_\_.

- A** loud
- B** quiet
- C** dark

**13** Priya holds her bag \_\_\_\_ and looks for the main office.

- A** tightly
- B** quickly
- C** slowly

**14** A girl with red \_\_\_\_ runs up to Priya.

- A** trainers
- B** boots
- C** sandals

**15** Priya says, "I can't find Room \_\_\_\_," and Fatima offers to help.

- A** 7
- B** 4
- C** 12

**16** They walk together down a long \_\_\_\_.

- A** corridor
- B** staircase
- C** street

**17** The teacher gives Priya a seat near the \_\_\_\_.

- A** window
- B** door
- C** board

**18** From her seat, Priya can see the green football \_\_\_\_ outside.

- A** pitch
- B** court
- C** field

**19** Priya loves \_\_\_\_, and the lesson is about maps.

- A** geography
- B** history
- C** science

**20** It is not a perfect day, but it is a good \_\_\_\_.

- A** start
- B** end
- C** lesson

# Answer Key & Explanations

My First Day at a New School | A1

## Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** **Correct Answer: At the school gate**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "**Priya walks through the school gate and stops.**" This is the first thing she does when she arrives. *She stops because the playground is very loud.*
2. **C** **Correct Answer: Because she does not know anyone**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text clearly states "**Priya does not know anyone.**" This is why she feels nervous and holds her bag tightly. *Not knowing people in a new place can feel scary.*
3. **C** **Correct Answer: Red trainers**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text describes Fatima as "**a girl with red trainers.**" **Trainers** are a type of sports shoe. *Fatima runs up to Priya wearing her red trainers.*
4. **D** **Correct Answer: Room 7**  
✓ **Explanation:** Priya tells Fatima, "**I can't find Room 7.**" This is the classroom she needs to go to. *Fatima helps her find it because the school is very big.*
5. **B** **Correct Answer: A little better**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "**Priya feels a little better now**" after Fatima agrees to walk with her. Having a friendly person beside her helps Priya feel less nervous. *A kind friend can make a difficult situation easier.*
6. **C** **Correct Answer: Mr. Osei**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "**the teacher, Mr. Osei, gives Priya a seat near the window.**" *Mr. Osei is the class teacher who also praises Priya during the lesson.*
7. **D** **Correct Answer: Near the window**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text states that **Mr. Osei gives Priya a seat near the window.** From this seat, she can see the green football pitch outside. *Sitting near the window gives Priya a view of the school grounds.*
8. **C** **Correct Answer: Maps**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "**The lesson is about maps.**" This is part of a geography class. *Priya enjoys the lesson because she loves geography.*
9. **C** **Correct Answer: "Excellent!"**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says "**Mr. Osei says, 'Excellent!'**" after Priya answers a question correctly. **Excellent** is a word a teacher uses to praise a very good answer. *Being praised by the teacher helps Priya feel more confident.*

10. **B** **Correct Answer: Fatima and Priya agree to eat lunch together**  
✓ **Explanation:** At the end, **Fatima asks Priya "Do you want to eat lunch together?"** and Priya says yes. The text says it is **"a good start,"** showing that the day ended on a positive note. *Sharing lunch is a friendly way to begin a new friendship.*

## Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** **Correct Answer: gate**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Priya walks through the school **gate**. A **gate** is an entrance at the outside of a building or area. *She walks through the school gate and stops.*
12. **A** **Correct Answer: loud**  
✓ **Explanation:** The passage says the playground is very **loud** because students are laughing and running everywhere. **Loud** means a lot of noise. *The playground is very loud.*
13. **A** **Correct Answer: tightly**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Priya holds her bag **tightly**, which shows she is nervous. **Tightly** means with a strong, firm hold. *She holds her bag tightly.*
14. **A** **Correct Answer: trainers**  
✓ **Explanation:** The passage describes the girl as wearing red **trainers**. **Trainers** are sports shoes. *A girl with red trainers runs up to her.*
15. **A** **Correct Answer: 7**  
✓ **Explanation:** Priya specifically says she cannot find **Room 7**. This is the exact room number used in the passage. *I can't find Room 7.*
16. **A** **Correct Answer: corridor**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says they walk down a long **corridor**. A **corridor** is a long passage inside a building. *They walk together down a long corridor.*
17. **A** **Correct Answer: window**  
✓ **Explanation:** Mr. Osei gives Priya a seat near the **window**, and she can see the football pitch outside. *She sits near the window.*
18. **A** **Correct Answer: pitch**  
✓ **Explanation:** The passage uses the word **pitch** for the area where football is played. A **football pitch** is the green playing area. *She can see the green football pitch outside.*
19. **A** **Correct Answer: geography**  
✓ **Explanation:** The text says Priya loves **geography** and the lesson is about maps, which is a **geography** topic. *The lesson is about maps, and Priya loves geography.*
20. **A** **Correct Answer: start**  
✓ **Explanation:** The passage ends with the phrase **a good start**, meaning the day begins in a positive way. *It is not a perfect day, but it is a good start.*

## Score Guide

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