

## Quantifiers: Canadian Culture

READING  
TEXT

Many visitors to Canada often ask “What is Canadian culture?” And just as many Canadians ask themselves that question! Pinning down the characteristics of Canadian culture is becoming more and more difficult. The reality is that Canada has become a virtual United Nations. It is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. The 1996 Census counted almost 5 million immigrants living in Canada, or about 17% of the total population. Since then, the immigrant population has continued to increase at a great rate. In 1990, the top source countries for immigrants to Canada were Hong Kong and Poland. In 2000, this had changed to China and India.

When people visit Canada’s major cities, one of the most prominent characteristics that many first notice is the large number of different ethnic, racial and linguistic groups. Canada’s three largest metropolitan areas---Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal---attract about 75% of new immigrants to Canada. These three cities are home to more than 100 different language groups, including Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Tamil, Japanese, Korean, Greek, and Punjabi. On any given day, while riding public transportation or walking the streets or shopping in the markets, you can hear all of these languages. Tourists to major urban areas can enjoy visiting ethnic neighbourhoods like Chinatown, Korea Town, Little Portugal, Little Italy, and Little India. Few visitors ever expect to encounter such a large number of languages and few feel out of place. One recent visitor to Canada even joked, “I knew that there would be plenty of diversity, but I never realized that I would hear so little English and French and so many other languages.”

Multiculturalism has become one of the defining characteristics of Canadian life. Year round, there are numerous festivals which showcase the different cultures from around the world that are now represented in Canada. If you enjoy eating a variety of foods, there are restaurants for nearly every cuisine in the world. It is possible to eat out every night of the year and discover a new nationality or cuisine each time. You may be a visitor, tourist, businessman or student but you are not entirely different from the rest of the people who live and work in Canada. Canada is a country that uniquely embraces and celebrates the world.

Intermediate 1 – Reading Exercise 2 – Quantifiers: Canadian Culture

However, we still haven't really defined Canadian culture. If we look at the many foods, festivals and languages that we see around us, defining Canadian culture is difficult. However, the food, festivals and languages are simply the products of a culture. They are the easy-to-see and easy-to-change layer of a culture. When we dig deeper into the idea of culture, we find that it also includes our behaviour and our values. Unlike food and clothing, values and behaviours are not-so-easy-to-see and not-so-easy-to-change. Interestingly, looking at Canadian values is where Canadian culture actually becomes clearer. Michael Adams, a Canadian social scientist, has spent years measuring Canadian values and comparing them to those of other cultures. What values do Canadians have that define Canadian culture? According to Michael Adams, Canadians are pragmatic and realistic. They feel strongly about NOT being nationalistic. They believe in the idea of a kinder gentler society. They believe in finding the middle ground....and they value diversity.

*Underline the QUANTIFIERS in the text. Why is each of them used?*

*Write a sentence with each of the following words and expressions.*

- |     |                              |       |
|-----|------------------------------|-------|
| 1.  | <b>THE REALITY</b>           | _____ |
| 2.  | <b>TO PIN DOWN</b>           | _____ |
| 3.  | <b>DIVERSE</b>               | _____ |
| 4.  | <b>PROMINENT</b>             | _____ |
| 5.  | <b>TO NOTICE</b>             | _____ |
| 6.  | <b>ETHNIC</b>                | _____ |
| 7.  | <b>MULTICULTURAL</b>         | _____ |
| 8.  | <b>CUISINE</b>               | _____ |
| 9.  | <b>TO EMBRACE</b>            | _____ |
| 10. | <b>TO DIG DEEPER</b>         | _____ |
| 11. | <b>TO MEASURE</b>            | _____ |
| 12. | <b>PRAGMATIC</b>             | _____ |
| 13. | <b>THE MIDDLE<br/>GROUND</b> | _____ |

- 14. **REALISTIC** \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. **TO REPRESENT** \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. **AN IMMIGRANT** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answer the following questions.*

- 1. Why is it difficult to define Canadian culture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Where have most immigrants come from in the last twenty years? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What percentage of immigrants go to the largest urban areas? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. What are some of the languages you can hear in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What are some of the benefits of multiculturalism? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6. What are examples of cultural products? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. What are the two other layers of culture? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. What are some Canadian values, according to Michael Adams ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_