

# Diwali

Diwali is a Hindu celebration known as the 'Festival of Lights'. Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps' and during this time, houses, shops and public places are lit up with small earthenware oil lamps called diyas. It is a very important holiday in India.

Diwali is a festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil and that light triumphs over darkness. The legends that go with the festival are different depending on where you are in India.



## Traditions

People spring clean their homes during Diwali for the start of the new business year. It is also a time for people to wear new clothes and women may decorate themselves with temporary henna designs on their hands. Homes and business are decorated with lights, candles and sparklers. Festive foods such as mithai (an Indian sweet) are eaten and gifts are exchanged with family and friends. Special patterns called rangoli are drawn on the floor of the house. The most popular rangoli subject is the lotus flower. Diwali is celebrated with a huge fireworks display at night

## Lakshmi

Lakshmi is known as the goddess of wealth. During Diwali, lamps are lit outside homes and people leave their windows and doors open so that Lakshmi can find her way into their homes. Some people say prayers to the goddess for a successful year.

### Did you know?

The festival is also celebrated by Sikhs. They remember Guru Hargobind and 52 princes who were freed from prison.

Subheadings	A range of sentences starters	Introduction
Factual language	Present tense	3 <sup>rd</sup> person