

- b) Walk around the class. Tell your classmates about both traditions. Let them guess which one is true. Then change roles.
- c) Report on the most unusual tradition or special event you've heard from your classmates.
4. Tell your partner about your family traditions or special events. Do you have anything in common with your partner?

LESSON 8. Grandmother's house

Communicative area: speaking about childhood memories

1. a) Work in pairs. What does the picture below show?



- b) Put the words below into 5 groups according to the picture above.

Watch, illusion, leather, telescope, goose bumps, smell, microphone, cold, eavesdrop, moist, noise, texture, fingertips, yummy, fluffy, sticky, stink, aroma, spiky, frost, attractive, sour, delicious, tasteless, humid, blizzard, lightening, flavour, spicy, shortsighted, shiny, hearing aid, perfume, visual, view, observe, binoculars, microscope, linen, pattern, sweet, silhouette, drizzle.

2. a) Read the chapter from personal memoirs. What were the author's feelings when he was writing this piece? Why?

My grandmother's house has a very special place in my heart. I lived with my grandmother for many years when I was little. Her house always seemed to have something about it that set it apart from all the rest. As you walked into the front door of her house you noticed a long, slender stairway that led up into the main hallway of the house. The strong smell of cigarette smoke was quite evident when you reached this point. Yes, my grandmother did smoke.



My grandmother's house was always full of laughter and many cheers. Our family used to call it **Grand Central Station**. There was always someone over her house visiting – family or friends. My grandmother's doors were always open to everyone no matter what. When my grandmother had company, she would tell us very seriously to act nicely in front of them or she would be very upset with us.

My grandmother always sat in the kitchen of her house. This is where she would drink her hot black coffee with no sugar and smoke her Virginia Slim cigarettes. She would sometimes sit in her kitchen for hours upon end and watch the ducks and the geese swimming by on the river and if it were warm enough outside, she would crumble up some bread and feed it a little at a time to them.

In the summer time, my grandmother and whoever happened to be at the house would sit out on the sundeck for hours and talk about anything and everything imaginable; she was known as the **neighbourhood gossip queen**. The sundeck was a place for everyone to sit and relax in the warm sunny breeze. My grandmother was a very spontaneous person, she did what she wanted to at the drop of a hat and nobody ever stopped her. She was always very active in many things like volunteering for Veterans Auxiliary, making crafts, cooking, cleaning, etc., but always had time for the ones she loved.

Living at my grandmother's house was indeed a lot of fun because she was so easy-going with me. She allowed me to do all the things that I wanted to do and dreamed about. She was always willing to lend me a hand in anything that I needed. She

was a highly **giving person** to everyone around her and she never asked for anything in return. She always had an ear-to-ear smile that would brighten up anyone's day if it wasn't going so well.

My grandmother had a very soft-hearted voice that I remember singing us to sleep when we were little. She would wait with us until we fell deep asleep, and in the morning, she would wake us with the smell of hot freshly cooked breakfast on the table. Even as we got older, she always tried to **baby us** when we were around her. My grandmother was the kind, gentle, loving, caring grandmother every child dreams about.

My grandmother passed away two years ago and it has been a very **rough two years** trying to cope with such a big loss. After she died, I moved out of her house because I was so overwhelmed by the thoughts of her not being there.

Even today, when I stop by, I still feel her presence inside the house. She always said that when she died, she would always be around to watch over us and to take care of us and I think that is exactly what happened. When I walk into the house, I can still smell the Virginia Slim cigarettes she smoked and sometimes I swear I can hear her talking. When I walk into her kitchen, I expect to see her sitting at the table drinking her coffee and smoking, but she is never there.

My grandmother was a very big influence on my life. She always instilled the finest qualities in me and always insisted that I be the best that I can be. She had a **special knack** for everything she did. She was always full of joy and tried to spread her happiness to everyone around her and I think that is what I miss most of all now that she is gone.

b) Why did the family call the house the Grand Central Station? What is the Grand Central Station like? Describe what one feels with all 5 senses there.

c) Guess what the other words in bold mean using the context. Discuss the meaning in pairs. Give more examples.


d) Pick out the words from the text which convey the happiness that the author feels. Pick out the words from the text which convey the sense of loss that the author feels.

e) What happened to the house after the grandmother passed away?

3. Read the chapter again, then work in pairs. Find all the words and phrases that refer to the 5 senses in the text.

4. Discuss the questions below in pairs.

1. Why is the grandmother's house a special place for many of us? 2. Does the grandmother's house have a special place in your heart? 3. How would you describe your grandmother's house using the five senses?

5.  **Prepare to write about your grandma's house or your childhood favourite place. Use each of your 5 senses in a descriptive essay that will make the readers feel like they're along for the ride. Plan it out, first.**

LESSON 9. Speaking corner

Communicative area: speaking about modern families

1. a) Work in pairs. Discuss the questions below.



1. Do you like board games? Why (not)? 2. What board games do you play with your family or friends? 3. What's your favourite board game?

b) Read about a family tradition. Do you like it? Why (not)?

Family game night is a popular tradition in Britain and the USA. It's the scheduled day of the week when family members