

# Integrating into My New Community

Loubna Mouyarden

## BEFORE YOU READ:

1. The verb *to integrate* means a) to combine one or more things so that they become a whole, and b) to bring together different groups in society so that all groups have equal participation and opportunity. What do you think the author means by the title?
2. Use integrate (and its opposite, *segregate*) in several sentences.

Immigrating to the U.S. helped me learn about other beautiful cultures. Before I came to America, I didn't know a lot about other nationalities in the world. I spoke French and Arabic, but no English. My culture was confined to the Mediterranean region.

When I came to the U.S., I learned about other cultures and countries. At my school, the Community Learning Center (CLC), I have made many friends, and I have beautiful teachers. My friends at school are Haitian, Spanish, Brazilian,

---

**We sometimes meet each other and take a walk together with her dog.**

---

Chinese, and Iranian people. That's why I'm happy at CLC. I can practice English with people from all over the world. During break time, I talk with them about

their cultures. I learn about their food, customs, and traditions. We sometimes show each other pictures to get to know each other's family members.

I also connect with non-immigrant people, like my neighbors. For example, I live on the first floor of my house, and my neighbor who is not an immigrant lives on the second floor. We sometimes meet each other and take a walk together with her dog.



Now, I'm focusing on my goal which is to become a nurse through the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at CLC. I want to get a better job in healthcare so I can help other people.

In the end, like any immigrant in the U.S., I'm trying to integrate into this new society, and I'm happy to do so.

## AFTER YOU READ:

1. What specific strategies does the author use to connect with people in the U.S.?
2. Are there parts of U.S. society that you want to integrate into and other parts that you would prefer not to integrate into? Discuss.

---

*Loubna Mouyarden is a student in the ESOL Level 4 class at the Community Learning Center in Cambridge, MA. She is from Morocco, and she has been living in Cambridge for two years. She works at TJ Maxx as a cashier.*