



Is Boxing Day Losing Its Crown?

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 For decades, Boxing Day was one of the most important dates in the retail calendar of countries such as Britain and Canada. Shops slashed prices to clear their Christmas stock, and shoppers queued in the cold before sunrise. In 2009, reports suggested that up to 12 million people in the UK went to the sales.



2 Since then, the picture has changed. Black Friday, an American import, has pulled spending into November, and in 2015 UK retail sales in November were higher than in December for the first time. In Canada, Black Friday overtook Boxing Day as the biggest shopping day in the 2010s. Online shopping also means that many people now hunt for bargains from the sofa instead of the high street.

3 Some see this as a loss, while others welcome it. Shop workers, after all, are among the people the original Christmas box was meant to thank, yet many of them must work on the holiday. For many families, the best part of the day is already a slow meal of leftovers at home, far from the crowded shops. A quieter Boxing Day might bring the holiday closer to its roots.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Boxing Day sales are now bigger than ever in Britain and Canada.
- (B) Boxing Day is becoming less important for shopping, and some people think this could be a good thing.
- (C) Black Friday has completely replaced Boxing Day as a public holiday.
- (D) Shop workers in Britain no longer have to work on Boxing Day.

2. According to the passage, how many people in the UK went to the Boxing Day sales in 2009?

- (A) Exactly 2 million.
- (B) About 15 million.
- (C) Fewer than in 2015.
- (D) Up to 12 million.

3. What happened in the UK in 2015?

- (A) Retail sales in November were higher than in December for the first time.
- (B) Boxing Day stopped being a public holiday.
- (C) Black Friday was banned.
- (D) Most shops closed on December 26.

4. What can we infer from the phrase "hunt for bargains from the sofa instead of the high street"?

- (A) People now buy more sofas on Boxing Day.
- (B) Shops on the high street have become cheaper than online stores.
- (C) Many people now shop online at home instead of going to stores in town.
- (D) People are too tired to shop after Christmas.

5. In paragraph 1, the word "slashed" is closest in meaning to

- (A) raised
- (B) printed
- (C) hid
- (D) cut sharply

6. Why does the writer mention shop workers in the last paragraph?

- (A) To point out that the people the Christmas box was meant to thank often have to work on the holiday.
- (B) To argue that shop workers should be paid less on Boxing Day.
- (C) To explain how Black Friday started in America.
- (D) To show that shop workers enjoy the busy sales.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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|-------------|--|
| 1. retail | a. to become greater in number or more important than something else |
| 2. slash | b. something you buy for a lower price than usual |
| 3. stock | c. to be happy about a change or an idea and accept it |
| 4. queue | d. the origin or the beginning of a custom, a group, or an idea |
| 5. overtake | e. the business of selling goods to people in shops or online |
| 6. bargain | f. to reduce prices or costs by a large amount |
| 7. welcome | g. the goods that a shop has and is ready to sell |
| 8. roots | h. to wait in a line of people for something (British English) |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Shops slashed prices to clear their Christmas stock, and shoppers queued in the cold before sunrise.”

Hint: Use "cut prices a lot" and "sell everything left from Christmas". Change "queued" to "waited in line".

2. “Online shopping also means that many people now hunt for bargains from the sofa instead of the high street.”

Hint: Start with "Because of online shopping," and change "hunt for bargains" to "look for cheap things".

3. “A quieter Boxing Day might bring the holiday closer to its roots.”

Hint: Use "If Boxing Day becomes quieter," and "what it was like in the beginning".

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: Global events are replacing local traditions.

FOR 賛成

- Black Friday, an American import, overtook Boxing Day as the biggest shopping day in Canada in the 2010s.
- In 2015, UK retail sales in November were higher than in December for the first time, so spending is moving to a global date.
- Online shopping makes every country's sales look the same, so local shopping customs lose their special meaning.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- Boxing Day is still an official holiday in Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and families still enjoy leftovers and football.
- The heart of Boxing Day was never shopping. It was thanking workers, and that idea is still alive in the Christmas box.
- Local traditions can survive next to global ones. Even after Black Friday arrived, Canada still holds Boxing Week sales for several days after Christmas.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>