



When a Movie Creates a Tradition

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

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- 1 In 2015, the James Bond film *Spectre* opened with a spectacular Day of the Dead parade through Mexico City. Audiences around the world were impressed, but there was one problem: no such parade existed. The following year, the city organized a real one, and around 250,000 people came to watch. Scholars sometimes call this the pizza effect, when a culture adopts a version of itself that was shaped abroad.
- 2 This is not the first time the festival has been reshaped. Historians disagree about how much of it comes from Aztec rituals and how much from Spanish Catholic customs. The Mexican historian Elsa Malvido argued that the modern celebration was largely promoted by the government in the twentieth century to build national identity. Even *La Catrina* began as a satirical print, not as an ancient goddess.
- 3 Does this make the tradition less authentic? Many Mexicans would say no. When UNESCO recognized the festival in 2008, it described it as a living practice of the indigenous communities of Mexico. Families still clean graves, cook for their dead, and tell stories about them, whatever the origin of each decoration. Traditions are not museum pieces; they stay alive precisely because people keep changing them.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

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| (A) The James Bond film <i>Spectre</i> was very popular in Mexico. | (B) The Day of the Dead keeps changing, but that does not make it less real. |
| (C) The Day of the Dead comes only from Aztec rituals. | (D) UNESCO created the Day of the Dead in 2008. |

2. What happened the year after *Spectre* opened?

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| (A) Disney made a movie about the festival. | (B) UNESCO added the festival to its list. |
| (C) People stopped watching the parade. | (D) Mexico City organized a real parade, and around 250,000 people came. |

3. According to Elsa Malvido, why was the modern celebration promoted?

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| (A) To build national identity | (B) To sell more movie tickets |
| (C) To bring back Aztec gods | (D) To attract tourists from Spain |

4. Why is the Mexico City parade an example of the pizza effect?

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| (A) Because pizza is sold at the parade | (B) Because the parade is older than the film |
| (C) Because Mexico adopted a version of its festival that was first shown in a foreign film | (D) Because the parade started in Italy |

5. In paragraph 3, what does authentic mean in less authentic?

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| (A) Real and true to its culture | (B) Expensive and popular |
| (C) New and modern | (D) Famous around the world |

6. Why does the writer say traditions are not museum pieces?

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| (A) To suggest that the festival should be shown in museums | (B) To say that old decorations are not valuable |
| (C) To explain why UNESCO visits Mexico | (D) To argue that change is what keeps traditions alive |



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

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

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| 1. spectacular | a. a set of actions that people do in the same way, often for religious reasons |
| 2. adopt | b. the qualities and feelings that make a person or a group who they are |
| 3. ritual | c. using humor to show what is wrong with people or society |
| 4. identity | d. real, and true to where it came from |
| 5. satirical | e. belonging to the people who lived in a place first |
| 6. authentic | f. exactly; used to say that something is the exact reason |
| 7. indigenous | g. very exciting to look at |
| 8. precisely | h. to start using an idea or a way of doing something |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Audiences around the world were impressed, but there was one problem: no such parade existed.”

Hint: Use People who watched it and was not real.

2. “The Mexican historian Elsa Malvido argued that the modern celebration was largely promoted by the government in the twentieth century to build national identity.”

Hint: Make the government the subject. Use helped spread and feel more Mexican.

3. “Traditions are not museum pieces; they stay alive precisely because people keep changing them.”

Hint: Use do not stay the same and that is why.

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: A tradition can be authentic even if it began recently.

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- About 250,000 people joined the first Mexico City parade, so people quickly made it their own.
- Many parts of the festival, like La Catrina, began as new ideas and are now loved symbols.
- Traditions stay alive because people keep changing them, so new parts are natural.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- A parade made because of a foreign film may be more for tourists and cameras than for families.
- If a company or a government creates a custom, it may serve business or politics, not the community.
- The heart of the festival is what families have done for a long time, like cleaning graves and cooking for the dead.

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>