



Was Father's Day Invented by Shops?

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



- 1 Father's Day began with a daughter's love, but it grew with the help of business. In the 1920s, many Americans laughed at the idea, and newspapers called it a trick by merchants. Congress also refused to make it official, partly because lawmakers feared it would become too commercial. Then, in the 1930s, makers of neckties, pipes and other men's goods saw an opportunity. In 1938, a group of New York menswear stores formed the Father's Day Council, and the holiday slowly became a major shopping event.
- 2 The same pattern appears in other countries. In Brazil, a newspaper promoted the day in 1953, partly to help shops during a slow month. In Spain, a teacher created the celebration in 1948, but department stores spread it across the country. In Japan, an association of men's fashion companies started the yellow ribbon campaign in the early 1980s.
- 3 So, is Father's Day just a sales event? Not exactly. Business gave the day its reach, but families gave it its meaning. A handmade card or a phone call costs almost nothing, and many fathers say these are the gifts they remember most.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

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| (A) Father's Day was created by shops in New York. | (B) Fathers do not like the gifts that shops sell. |
| (C) Business helped Father's Day spread, but families give it meaning. | (D) Father's Day is more popular in Brazil than in the United States. |

2. Who formed the Father's Day Council in 1938?

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| (A) A group of New York menswear stores | (B) Members of Congress |
| (C) A newspaper in Brazil | (D) A teacher in Spain |

3. Why did a newspaper in Brazil promote Father's Day in 1953?

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| (A) To follow a law made by the government | (B) To remember a famous Brazilian father |
| (C) To copy the yellow ribbon campaign in Japan | (D) Partly to help shops during a slow month |

4. What can we guess about Father's Day in the 1920s?

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| (A) It was already a major shopping event. | (B) Many people did not take it seriously yet. |
| (C) It was more popular than Mother's Day. | (D) Congress made it an official holiday. |

5. In paragraph 3, what does reach mean in Business gave the day its reach?

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| (A) The time it takes to arrive | (B) The money people pay for gifts |
| (C) The length of your arm | (D) How far and to how many people it spread |

6. Why does the writer give examples from Brazil, Spain and Japan?

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| (A) To show that the link between business and Father's Day is not only American | (B) To explain why Father's Day is on different dates |
| (C) To show that other countries started Father's Day earlier | (D) To recommend the best Father's Day gifts |



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

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

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| 1. merchant | a. to help something become popular, often by advertising it |
| 2. refuse | b. a group of people or companies with the same purpose |
| 3. official | c. a planned set of activities to reach a goal, such as selling a product |
| 4. commercial | d. a person who buys and sells goods, often as a shop owner |
| 5. opportunity | e. to say that you will not do or accept something |
| 6. promote | f. decided or approved by a government or a group in power |
| 7. association | g. connected with buying and selling things to make money |
| 8. campaign | h. a time or situation when you can do something useful |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Congress also refused to make it official, partly because lawmakers feared it would become too commercial.”

Hint: Use would not instead of refused, and worried instead of feared.

2. “In Spain, a teacher created the celebration in 1948, but department stores spread it across the country.”

Hint: Start with Although, and use started and made it popular.

3. “Business gave the day its reach, but families gave it its meaning.”

Hint: Explain the two parts with spread and important.

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: Holidays like Father's Day are mainly for business.

FOR 賛成

- In many countries, shops and newspapers made the day popular, as in the United States, Brazil, Spain and Japan.
- Stores spend a lot on advertising before the day, and many people feel they must buy a gift.
- Without business, the day might have stayed an idea that many people laughed at, as it was in the 1920s.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- The day began with a daughter who wanted to thank her father, not with a shop.
- Many fathers remember handmade cards and phone calls most, and these cost almost nothing.
- Some dates come from religion or family, like Saint Joseph's Day in Spain and Italy, not from sales.

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>