



Why Celebrate a Forecast That Fails?

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 By any scientific measure, Punxsutawney Phil is a poor meteorologist. The U.S. National Centers for Environmental Information found that he was right only about 30 percent of the time over the past decade. A 2021 study of 530 forecasts by North American groundhogs concluded that, as a group, they did no better than a coin toss. Yet the crowds keep coming back every year.



2 Part of the answer is economic. Punxsutawney has fewer than 6,000 residents, but it can welcome up to 40,000 visitors on a single winter morning. Attendance jumped from about 2,000 to around 10,000 after the 1993 film made the town famous, turning a local joke into a tourism engine. Local businesses, from diners to souvenir shops, depend on that one cold morning.

3 Another part is psychological. In early February, winter feels endless, and a shared ritual gives people something to laugh about together. The organizers understand this perfectly: when Phil is wrong, they simply blame the human who translated his message. Groundhog Day works not because it predicts the future, but because it helps a community get through the present.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Scientists want to stop Groundhog Day because the forecasts are wrong.
- (B) Punxsutawney Phil is more accurate than most weather apps.
- (C) The 1993 film was based on a true story from Punxsutawney.
- (D) Groundhog Day continues because it brings economic and emotional benefits, even though the forecasts are poor.

2. How did the 1993 film change Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney?

- (A) It moved the event to a different town.
- (B) It gave Phil his name for the first time.
- (C) Attendance rose from about 2,000 to around 10,000.
- (D) The town's population grew to 40,000.

3. What did the 2021 study of 530 forecasts find?

- (A) As a group, the groundhogs did no better than a coin toss.
- (B) Phil was right about 30 percent of the time.
- (C) Most groundhogs predicted an early spring.
- (D) Groundhogs in Canada were more accurate than those in the United States.

4. What does the organizers' habit of blaming "the human who translated his message" suggest?

- (A) The translator is often fired after a wrong forecast.
- (B) The organizers treat the event as a joke and want to keep it fun.
- (C) The organizers believe Phil can really speak.
- (D) The organizers are angry with the scientists.

5. In paragraph 2, the word "engine" in "turning a local joke into a tourism engine" is closest in meaning to

- (A) a part of a car
- (B) a kind of computer program
- (C) something that drives growth
- (D) a small problem

6. What is the writer's main purpose in the last sentence?

- (A) To say that Groundhog Day should be stopped.
- (B) To explain that the real value of the event is in bringing people together now.
- (C) To prove that Phil can predict the weather.
- (D) To compare Groundhog Day with other festivals in Europe.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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| 1. meteorologist | a. a person who plans and runs an event |
| 2. conclude | b. a scientist who studies the weather and tells people what it will be like |
| 3. resident | c. to decide that something is true after looking at the facts |
| 4. attendance | d. a person who lives in a particular place |
| 5. depend on | e. the number of people who come to an event |
| 6. psychological | f. to need something or someone in order to continue or succeed |
| 7. ritual | g. connected with the mind and feelings |
| 8. organizer | h. an action that people do in the same way again and again, often at special times |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “By any scientific measure, Punxsutawney Phil is a poor meteorologist.”

Hint: Start with "Science shows that" and change "a poor meteorologist" to "not good at predicting the weather".

2. “Local businesses, from diners to souvenir shops, depend on that one cold morning.”

Hint: Start with "Many shops and restaurants in the town" and use "need".

3. “Groundhog Day works not because it predicts the future, but because it helps a community get through the present.”

Hint: Use "The reason" and "is not ... It is ...".

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Motion: Small towns should change their traditions to attract more tourists.

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- Punxsutawney has fewer than 6,000 residents, but tourism brings up to 40,000 visitors and helps local businesses survive.
- Traditions have always changed over time. The German badger became a groundhog in Pennsylvania, so change is part of tradition.
- When more people visit, young people may feel proud of their town and want to keep the tradition alive.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- If a tradition changes too much for tourists, it may lose the meaning it has for local people.
- Depending on one event is risky. If visitors stop coming, the town's businesses may be in trouble.
- Large crowds can bring noise, traffic, and trash that make life harder for residents.

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>