



Is Throwing Food Ever Acceptable?

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 Every August, photos of La Tomatina spread around the world, and so do complaints. Critics say that throwing more than 100 tons of food is hard to defend when many people go hungry. The organizers answer that the tomatoes are grown for the event and are too ripe to be sold or eaten. Whether that answer is enough is a question each visitor has to decide.



2 The festival also shows how a local custom can be changed by global attention. After a national TV report in 1983, crowds grew so large that the town began selling tickets in 2013, cutting attendance roughly in half. In recent years, about 40 percent of participants have come from abroad, partly thanks to a 2011 Bollywood film that featured the fight. Tourism brings income to a town of only about 10,000 people, but it also raises questions about who the festival is really for.

3 In 2025, the 80th edition took the slogan "Tomato Therapy," after floods had damaged the region the previous October. For many residents, the hour of chaos had become a way to heal together, which is perhaps the strongest argument for keeping it.

Comprehension

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- (A) The questions La Tomatina raises about food, tourism and community
(B) How to buy a ticket for La Tomatina
(C) Why tomatoes are grown in Spain
(D) The story of a Bollywood film

2. How do the organizers answer the critics?

- (A) They say the tomatoes are given to hungry people after the event.
(B) They say only 10 tons of tomatoes are used.
(C) They say the festival will stop soon.
(D) They say the tomatoes are grown for the event and are too ripe to sell or eat.

3. What happened after the town began selling tickets in 2013?

- (A) More people came from abroad.
(B) The number of participants fell by about half.
(C) The festival moved to another town.
(D) A TV program reported on it for the first time.

4. What does the phrase who the festival is really for suggest?

- (A) Local people no longer live in Buñol.
(B) The festival is only for children.
(C) Some people worry that the festival now serves tourists more than local people.
(D) Tickets are too expensive for visitors.

5. In paragraph 1, what does defend mean in hard to defend?

- (A) To protect a place from an attack
(B) To stop a ball from going into a goal
(C) To throw something back
(D) To give good reasons that something is right

6. What does the writer seem to think in the last paragraph?

- (A) The festival should stop because of the floods.
(B) The slogan Tomato Therapy was a mistake.
(C) Helping residents heal together may be the best reason to keep the festival.
(D) Tourists are the most important part of the festival.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. critic | a. to show something as an important part of a movie, show or article |
| 2. defend | b. money that a person, company or town receives |
| 3. ripe | c. to become healthy or well again after being hurt |
| 4. attendance | d. a person who says what is wrong with something |
| 5. participant | e. to give reasons why something is right or acceptable |
| 6. feature | f. fully grown and ready to eat |
| 7. income | g. the number of people who go to an event |
| 8. heal | h. a person who takes part in an activity or event |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Critics say that throwing more than 100 tons of food is hard to defend when many people go hungry.”

Hint: Use People who are against it, and difficult to accept.

2. “Tourism brings income to a town of only about 10,000 people, but it also raises questions about who the festival is really for.”

Hint: Use makes money for and makes people ask.

3. “For many residents, the hour of chaos had become a way to heal together, which is perhaps the strongest argument for keeping it.”

Hint: Split it into two sentences. Use helped and maybe the best reason.

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: La Tomatina should continue.

FOR 賛成

- The tomatoes are grown for the event and are too ripe to be sold or eaten, so little real food is wasted.
- Tourism brings income to a small town of about 10,000 people.
- After the floods, the festival helped residents heal together, as the slogan Tomato Therapy shows.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- Throwing more than 100 tons of food sends a bad message when many people go hungry.
- The land, water and fuel used to grow and carry the tomatoes could be used for food people can eat.
- With about 40 percent of participants from abroad, the festival may now be more for tourists than for the town.

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>