



From Fan Joke to Global Brand

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 Star Wars Day is a rare example of a holiday invented by fans rather than by a company or a government. For decades, the pun appeared only now and then: in a London newspaper advertisement in 1979, a British cartoon in 1988, and even a debate in the UK Parliament in 1994. Social media changed that, and a cinema event in Toronto in 2011 turned the joke into an annual celebration.



2 After Disney bought Lucasfilm in 2012, the fan holiday became a commercial event. Since 2013, Disney has marked the day at its theme parks, and its streaming service often releases new Star Wars shows on May 4. Some fans feel that a company has taken over something that once belonged to them, while others argue that official support keeps the tradition alive.

3 The holiday also teaches a lesson about how stories spread. For years, books and websites, including an article on the official Star Wars website, claimed that Thatcher's party printed a congratulations ad on May 4, 1979. When one researcher checked the newspaper archives, he found only a different ad, printed a day earlier. A good story, it seems, can travel faster than the facts.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Star Wars Day began as a fan joke, became a commercial event, and shows how stories can spread without being checked.
- (B) Disney invented Star Wars Day in 2012 to sell more products.
- (C) The UK Parliament made May 4 an official holiday in 1994.
- (D) Most fans want Disney to stop celebrating Star Wars Day.

2. According to paragraph 1, what turned the joke into an annual celebration?

- (A) A British cartoon in 1988
- (B) A debate in the UK Parliament
- (C) Social media and a cinema event in Toronto in 2011
- (D) A new movie released on May 4, 1979

3. What happened after Disney bought Lucasfilm in 2012?

- (A) Fans stopped celebrating the day.
- (B) The day was moved to May 25.
- (C) Disney closed its theme parks on May 4.
- (D) The fan holiday became a commercial event.

4. What can we infer about the popular story of the May 4 congratulations ad?

- (A) It was printed in every British newspaper.
- (B) Many writers repeated it without checking the original newspapers.
- (C) Thatcher herself wrote the ad.
- (D) The researcher found the ad on the official Star Wars website.

5. In paragraph 1, the phrase 'now and then' is closest in meaning to

- (A) every day
- (B) for the first time
- (C) only in the future
- (D) sometimes, but not regularly

6. Why does the writer end with 'A good story, it seems, can travel faster than the facts'?

- (A) To say that fans should write more stories about Star Wars.
- (B) To explain why Disney releases new shows on May 4.
- (C) To warn readers that an attractive story can spread even when it is not true.
- (D) To prove that the 1979 ad never existed.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

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

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| 1. rare | a. to say that something is true, even if others may not agree |
| 2. invent | b. not happening or seen very often |
| 3. pun | c. to create something new that did not exist before |
| 4. annual | d. a joke that uses a word with two meanings or two words that sound the same |
| 5. commercial | e. happening once every year |
| 6. release | f. connected with buying and selling things to make money |
| 7. archive | g. to make a movie, song, or product available to the public |
| 8. claim | h. a collection of old records, documents, or newspapers kept in one place |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Star Wars Day is a rare example of a holiday invented by fans rather than by a company or a government.”

Hint: Use 'not ... but' and 'started'.

2. “Some fans feel that a company has taken over something that once belonged to them, while others argue that official support keeps the tradition alive.”

Hint: Make two sentences. Use 'Some fans ...' and 'Other fans ...'.

3. “A good story, it seems, can travel faster than the facts.”

Hint: Use 'interesting', 'spread', and 'more quickly than the truth'.

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: It is good for fans that Disney officially celebrates Star Wars Day.

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- Official support keeps the tradition alive and helps it reach new fans around the world.
- Disney gives fans new shows and theme park events on May 4, which makes the day more exciting.
- A big company has the money to hold events that fans could not organize by themselves.

Add your own reason:

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- The holiday was invented by fans, and a company has taken over something that once belonged to them.
- When the day becomes commercial, the focus moves from fun and community to selling products.
- Fans lose control over how the day is celebrated when one company decides the main events.

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>