



## LA TOMATINA 🍅 (SPAIN)

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### Before You Read

#### Discuss:

1. Do you enjoy unusual festivals?
2. Have you ever participated in a large public event?
3. What is the strangest festival you know?

### Reading

#### La Tomatina – The World's Biggest Food Fight

La Tomatina is one of Spain's most famous festivals. It takes place every year in the town of Buñol, near Valencia.

Thousands of people travel from around the world to take part in this unusual event. During the festival, participants throw tomatoes at each other for about one hour. The streets quickly become covered in tomato juice and laughter.

No one knows exactly how the festival started, but many people believe it began in the 1940s when a playful argument turned into a tomato fight.

Today, La Tomatina is carefully organized. Participants must follow safety rules, and the tomatoes used in the festival are grown specifically for the event.

Many people see La Tomatina as a symbol of fun, friendship, and community spirit. Although it can be messy, participants often describe it as a unique and unforgettable experience.

After the festival, cleaning crews wash the streets, and the town quickly returns to normal.



### Vocabulary in Context

Match the words to their meanings.

#### Word

1. participant
2. unusual
3. organized
4. unforgettable
5. community
6. experience

#### Meaning

- carefully planned
- a group of people living together
- something that happens to you
- a person who takes part in an activity
- different from normal
- very memorable

## Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions.

1. Where does La Tomatina take place?
2. How long does the tomato fight usually last?
3. When do people think the festival started?
4. Why is the event organized carefully?
5. What do many participants say about the experience?
6. What happens after the festival ends?

## True or False?

1. La Tomatina takes place in Madrid.
2. People throw tomatoes at each other.
3. The festival lasts all day.
4. Safety rules are important.
5. Many visitors come from other countries.

## Discussion

Discuss with a partner.

1. Would you like to take part in La Tomatina?
2. Does the festival sound fun or wasteful?
3. Why do people enjoy unusual festivals?
4. What festival would you recommend to visitors in your country?

## Teacher's Key

### Vocabulary in Context

Match the words to their meanings.

Word	Meaning
participant	a person who takes part in an activity
unusual	different from normal
organized	carefully planned
unforgettable	very memorable
community	a group of people living together
experience	something that happens to you

### True or False?

1. La Tomatina takes place in Madrid. **False**
2. People throw tomatoes at each other. **True**
3. The festival lasts all day. **False**
4. Safety rules are important. **True**
5. Many visitors come from other countries. **True**