

B2 Written Mediation: TOMATO BATTLE FESTIVAL

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Warm UP (Pre-Mediation Task). Scan through the questions and try to guess the answer. Then watch the video and check.

1. What makes the streets of Buñol turn red during La Tomatina?

- A) Red washable paint
- B) Coloured powder
- C) Flags and street decorations
- D) Squashed tomatoes

2. Approximately how many people join La Tomatina each year?

- A) 5,000
- B) 10,000
- C) 20,000
- D) 50,000

3. When did the tradition of La Tomatina begin?

- A) 1925
- B) 1945
- C) 1952
- D) 1970

4. Which of the following is one possible origin of the festival?

- A) A tomato harvest celebration
- B) A football victory party
- C) A fight during a religious procession
- D) A political campaign

5. Why was the festival briefly banned in the 1970s?

- A) Because it caused too much mess
- B) Because it was considered too dangerous
- C) Because people stopped participating
- D) Because it lacked religious significance

6. What happens before the tomato fight begins?

- A) A fireworks display
- B) A greased pole climbing event
- C) A parade of floats
- D) A tomato-eating contest

7. How is the start of the tomato fight signalled?

- A) By a cannon shot
- B) By fireworks
- C) By church bells
- D) By shouting "¡Vamos!"

8. What is one important safety rule during the festival?

- A) Participants must wear helmets
- B) Only tourists can throw tomatoes
- C) Tomatoes must be squashed before throwing
- D) Tomatoes must be green

9. How long does the tomato fight usually last?

- A) half an hour
- B) 1 hour
- C) 2 hours
- D) The whole day

10. How much does it cost to join the festival on the ground?

- A) It's free
- B) 5 euros
- C) 10 euros
- D) 50 euros

11. What special experience can you have for 750 euros?

- A) Visit the tomato farms
- B) Sit in the VIP area
- C) Have dinner with the mayor
- D) Throw tomatoes from one of the trucks

12. What is the deeper meaning of La Tomatina according to the transcript?

- A) A competition to see who throws best
- B) A celebration of unity and joy
- C) A way to use extra tomatoes
- D) A protest against the government

MEDIATION TASK: Your friend Paul from France is visiting Spain next month. He has already booked the flight and the hotel. His first stop is Buñol (Valencia) where he is attending the Tomato Battle Festival, *La Tomatina*. He has asked you for advice about basic safety rules and recommendations. You have seen this website and decided to write him an email. (150 words)



The Rules Of La Tomatina

- Do not bring bottles or hard objects as they can cause accidents
- Squash the tomatoes before throwing them as this reduces the impact
- Ensure you keep a safe distance from the lorries
- Wear closed-toe shoes as the pavements are slippery
- Wear old clothes that you do not mind throwing away
- If you are planning to take pictures, bring a waterproof camera!
- Wear goggles or swimming glasses to protect your eyes. Tomato juice can cause irritation
- Stop throwing tomatoes as soon as you hear the second shot

La Tomatina, held annually in Buñol, Spain, is a famous tomato-throwing festival known for its wild and messy fun. Despite the chaos, there are a few important rules to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment.

(Adapted from: <https://slidechef.net/templates/free-tomatina-template/>)

