

**LANGUAGE WORKSHOP**

**GROUNDHOG DAY (February 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**(Suggested Level – B1)**

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**1. Read the title of the text below and look at the photo. Have you heard of Groundhog Day?**

**2. Read the text quickly and answer the questions.**

- What happens on Groundhog Day?
- Why has it become better-known in recent years?
- Is the groundhog's prediction always true?

**GROUNDHOG DAY**

According to an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ US tradition, the groundhog, a small furry animal, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of its winter sleep on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. If the sky is (3) \_\_\_\_\_, he sees his shadow. This means there's going to be six more weeks of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ weather and he returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and he can't see his shadow, it means there will be an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ spring and he stays above ground. Each year reporters (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in Punxsutawney\* at dawn and a large (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of cameras are focused on the burrow of a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil.

Groundhog Day has become more popular in recent years, mainly because of the 1993 Hollywood film of the same (8) \_\_\_\_\_, which (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Phil into a major celebrity. The following February, over 30,000 people (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania for Phil's big day.

Last year Phil saw his shadow, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ six more weeks of winter. In 2014 the groundhog from Punxsutawney also saw his shadow forecasting one of (12) \_\_\_\_\_ winters in the US. However, Phil's predictions are not always accurate. In 2013 he was even taken to court for an (13) \_\_\_\_\_ promise that spring would come sooner.



Picture: loveoptium.ru

\*/pʌŋksə'təʊni/

**3. Fill in the gaps (1–13) with the correct option (A, B, C or D).**

- A eager B enthusiastic C optimistic D interesting
- A gets out B comes out C gets up D comes up
- A calm B apparent C clear D fair
- A low B severe C ill D rude
- A advanced B ahead C early D immature
- A gather B group C crowd D combine
- A amount B number C total D sum
- A name B title C label D term
- A got B became C took D turned
- A turned up B called off C came on D looked over
- A predicted B predicting C to predict D prediction
- A more brutal B brutaler C the most brutal D the brutalest
- A unfulfilled B infulfilled C unfulfilling D infulfilling

**4. Underline words and phrases describing the weather or seasons. Paraphrase or translate them.**

**5. Do you think Groundhog Day is a good idea? Why (not)? Would you like to see Punxsutawney Phil on Groundhog Day? Discuss with a partner.**

**Keys**

**Task 1.** Students' own answers.

**Task 2**

a. A groundhog wakes up from its sleep. If he sees his shadow, it means there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, this predicts early spring.

b. Because of the 1993 Hollywood film 'Groundhog Day'.  
 c. No.

**Task 3.** 1—D, 2—B, 3—C, 4—B, 5—C, 6—A, 7—B, 8—A, 9—D, 10—A, 11—B, 12—C, 13—A.

**Task 4**

- the sky is clear* — there are not clouds in the sky
- severe weather* — very bad weather
- the day is cloudy* — there are lots of clouds in the sky
- early spring* — warm weather in March
- brutal winter* — very cold and snowy winter

**Task 5.** Students' own answers.

*За матеріалом First Certificate Expert, Coursebook (2008), Jan Bell, Roger Gower, Drew Hyde, Nick Kenny, Richard Mann. Pearson Education Limited; www.nbcnews.com*