Two reports, one uncertain number

CEFR B2 | Unit 7: Journalism | Reading

Read the original text. You may underline evidence and reread as needed.

Name _____ Date _____

Two reports describe a public meeting about a new park. The first says 200 people attended, citing the organizer's early estimate. The second says 145 attended, citing the number of signed registration forms. Both figures have a source, but they measure different things. Some visitors may not have signed, and the early estimate may have been rounded.

A journalist preparing a follow-up contacts the organizer and checks the registration method. The organizer confirms that the estimate was made before counting forms. No door count was kept. The journalist therefore reports 145 registrations and explains that total attendance remains uncertain.

The reports also differ in emphasis. One leads with enthusiastic comments; the other highlights objections about parking. Neither selection alone shows the proportion of attendees holding either view. A transparent account can include the disagreement without inventing a balance or a majority.

The follow-up states what was checked, attributes the remaining claims and avoids silently replacing one uncertain figure with another. If a later verified count becomes available, the publication can add a dated correction. Readers are then able to distinguish an update in evidence from a change in the writer's preference.

Original Ilmiya practice text. Scenarios and research examples are fictional.