

Analogy

This document holds a few tests with ChatGPT 5.2 and SuperGrok. I'm testing how good it is with analogy of the form: *X is to Y as ___ is to B.*

___ is to Christianity as Bodhi Day is to Buddhism

It is interesting to see how ChatGPT didn't map Bodhi Day to Christmas. Both are in December.

Prompt

Question that is seeking an analogy: ___ is to Christianity as Bodhi Day is to Buddhism.

Context of my question: I'd like to model a celebration of Bodhi Day to the Christian holiday that most aligns.

Provide your top three reasoned answers, each with a description of the primary axis of reasoning (one sentence, results usually involve "it depends"), a description of your reasoning (about 100 words, including why it is a good answer, about 50 words on how it also supports the other axes (if applicable), a 0-1 rating the how much you think the answer is insightful, and the percentage of your answer that is based on the prevalence of "common framings" from your training data, in this format for each answer:

Answer:

Primary Axis:

Reasoning Description:

Support other Axes:

Insightful:

Common Framing:

Consider what your candidate is, what it does, what happens around it along various dimensions. For an analogy, there isn't a "right" or "wrong" answer. An analogy is intended to provide sparks of ideas for solutions, which is why I'm asking for multiple answers.

Return your three answers in the order you believe is most relevant to the context (if one was provided).

Answer

Answer: Easter

Primary Axis: The analogy hinges on the core theme of profound spiritual transformation and overcoming fundamental human suffering, where Bodhi Day marks Buddha's enlightenment and liberation from the cycle of suffering, paralleled by Easter's celebration of Jesus' resurrection and victory over sin and death.

Reasoning Description: This is a strong analogy because both holidays center on a pivotal, redemptive event that defines the religion's path to salvation—Buddha's awakening to ultimate truth versus Jesus' resurrection offering eternal life—making it ideal for modeling celebrations that emphasize renewal, reflection, and joy after struggle; celebrations could adapt Easter's themes of rebirth (e.g., eggs symbolizing new life) to Bodhi Day's meditative focus on enlightenment, perhaps incorporating symbolic "awakening" rituals like lighting candles or sharing teachings.

Support other Axes: It also aligns on cultural observance axes, as both involve periods of preparation (Lent mirroring Buddha's asceticism) and communal gatherings, while seasonally, both fall in reflective times of year in their traditions, supporting axes like ritual similarity and temporal placement.

Insightful: 0.85

Common Framing: 60%

Answer: Epiphany

Primary Axis: It depends on emphasizing divine revelation and the public manifestation of spiritual truth, with Bodhi Day as Buddha's realization shared through teachings, akin to Epiphany's commemoration of Jesus' revelation as the Messiah to the world via the Magi or baptism.

Reasoning Description: This analogy works well as both highlight a moment of epiphanic insight or disclosure that initiates broader dissemination of the faith—Buddha's enlightenment leading to the Dharma, versus Jesus' epiphany sparking his ministry—allowing modeled celebrations to focus on themes of discovery and sharing wisdom, such as adapting Epiphany's gift-giving (symbolizing offerings to truth) to Bodhi Day's tree decorations and sutra readings for a revelatory, educational festivity.

Support other Axes: On secondary axes like symbolism, both use light motifs (stars for Magi, Bodhi tree enlightenment), and culturally, they involve family-oriented observances with elements of wonder, extending to axes of communal education and symbolic reenactment.

Insightful: 0.75

Common Framing: 40%

Answer: Pentecost

Primary Axis: The parallel rests on the axis of collective enlightenment or empowerment through a transcendent experience, where Bodhi Day honors individual awakening that inspires followers, similar to Pentecost's descent of the Holy Spirit enlightening and empowering the apostles to spread Christianity.

Reasoning Description: This is a fitting analogy since both events mark a transformative "illumination" that propels the religion forward—Buddha's insight birthing Buddhism's teachings, paralleled by the Spirit's gifts enabling the Church's growth—enabling celebrations modeled on Pentecost's themes of inspiration and community (e.g., multilingual prayers) to enhance Bodhi Day's focus on meditation and dharma sharing, fostering group activities like guided reflections or symbolic "flame" rituals for awakening.

Support other Axes: It supports axes of ongoing legacy, as both emphasize how the event continues through disciples/teachings, and ritually, through gatherings that blend solemnity with empowerment, touching on temporal (post-founding event) and participatory dimensions.

Insightful: 0.70

Common Framing: 30%

Anything that succeeded analogous to how Spam succeeded.

Set the Creativity Temperature low. This seems to result in a tendency towards World War 2 era phenomenon related to food.

Prompt

Question that is seeking an analogy: Anything that succeeded analogous to how Spam succeeded.

Context of my question: None

Creativity Temperature: 0.2

Provide your top three reasoned answers, each with a description of the primary axis of reasoning (one sentence, results usually involve "it depends"), a description of your reasoning (about 100 words, including why it is a good answer, about 50 words on how it also supports the other axes (if applicable), a 0-1 rating the how much you think the answer is insightful, and the percentage of your answer that is based on the prevalence of "common framings" from your training data, in this format for each answer:

Answer:

Primary Axis:

Reasoning Description:

Support other Axes:

Insightful:

Common Framing:

Consider what your candidate is, what it does, what happens around it along various dimensions. For an analogy, there isn't a "right" or "wrong" answer. An analogy is intended to provide sparks of ideas for solutions, which is why I'm asking for multiple answers. Creativity Temperature is a 0-1 rating of how much you should avoid being too hung up on an overarching theme.

Return your three answers in the order you believe is most relevant to the context (if one was provided).

Answer

Answer: M&Ms

Primary Axis: Wartime military distribution created massive exposure and habit formation among soldiers, leading to explosive postwar civilian demand, similar to Spam's ration-driven global introduction.

Reasoning Description: M&Ms were developed and mass-produced primarily for U.S. troops during World War II because the candy shell prevented melting in hot climates, making them ideal for rations; soldiers consumed them overseas, and upon returning home, demand surged as civilians sought the familiar treat, turning it into an enduring global brand. This mirrors Spam closely as both leveraged military necessity for initial scale and cultural penetration, then transitioned to supermarket staples with nostalgic appeal. It's a good answer for highlighting how external crises can bootstrap product success and inspire ideas for durable, portable innovations. It also supports axes like clever adaptation (shell tech parallels Spam's shelf-stability) and cultural embedding (both became icons in various countries).

Support other Axes: Yes, on marketing through familiarity and portability.

Insightful: 0.8

Common Framing: 85%

Answer: Instant Coffee

Primary Axis: Military bulk purchasing during wartime to provide convenient morale-boosting sustenance propelled it from niche invention to household essential, echoing Spam's government contract-driven boom.

Reasoning Description: Instant coffee existed earlier but saw enormous growth when the U.S. military bought massive quantities (e.g., 37,000 pounds daily at peaks) for soldiers in both World Wars, creating familiarity and postwar civilian markets; brands like Nescafé capitalized on this to dominate globally. Like Spam, it succeeded via reliability in harsh conditions, long shelf life, and ease of use, evolving into everyday consumption. This analogy is strong for showing how institutional adoption can create lasting consumer habits, offering sparks for products needing rapid scaling through partnerships. It additionally aligns on affordability and versatility in recipes or daily routines.

Support other Axes: Yes, on economic accessibility and post-crisis persistence.

Insightful: 0.75

Common Framing: 70%

Answer: Cheetos (or cheese puffs via dehydrated cheese powder)

Primary Axis: Surplus military-developed dehydrated cheese powder sold postwar to food companies enabled creation of a wildly popular snack, paralleling Spam's shift from wartime surplus utility to beloved processed food.

Reasoning Description: The U.S. military's WWII-era development and stockpiling of dehydrated cheese led to postwar surpluses sold to firms like Frito-Lay, who turned it into Cheetos in 1948; this cheap, flavorful, shelf-stable snack exploded in popularity much like Spam's transition from rations to cultural icon. It's an insightful match because both illustrate how military food tech innovations can birth civilian hits through clever repurposing, suggesting paths for leveraging existing tech in new markets. It supports other axes like processed convenience and addictive appeal through texture/flavor engineering.

Support other Axes: Yes, on technological repurposing and mass-market appeal.

Insightful: 0.7

Common Framing: 65%

Anything that succeeded analogous to how Spam succeeded.

Set creativity temperature higher than for the previous test. It didn't tend towards the World War 2 food phenomenon as much.

Prompt

Question that is seeking an analogy: *Anything that succeeded analogous to how Spam succeeded.*

Context of my question: None

Creativity Temperature: 0.9

Provide your top three reasoned answers, each with a description of the primary axis of reasoning (one sentence, results usually involve "it depends"), a description of your reasoning (about 100 words, including why it is a good answer, about 50 words on how it also supports the other axes (if applicable), a 0-1 rating the how much you think the answer is insightful, and the percentage of your answer that is based on the

prevalence of "common framings" from your training data, in this format for each answer:

Answer:

Primary Axis:

Reasoning Description:

Support other Axes:

Insightful:

Common Framing:

Consider what your candidate is, what it does, what happens around it along various dimensions. For an analogy, there isn't a "right" or "wrong" answer. An analogy is intended to provide sparks of ideas for solutions, which is why I'm asking for multiple answers. Creativity Temperature is a 0-1 rating of how much you should avoid being too hung up on an overarching theme.

Return your three answers in the order you believe is most relevant to the context (if one was provided).

Answer

Answer: Instant Ramen Noodles

Primary Axis: Success through post-war innovation addressing food scarcity, convenience, and global cultural integration, much like Spam's wartime utility and enduring staple status.

Reasoning Description: Instant ramen, invented by Momofuku Ando in 1958, succeeded analogously to Spam by emerging as a cheap, shelf-stable food solution during Japan's post-WWII recovery, then spreading globally via export and adaptation into local cuisines (e.g., as a base for diverse meals in Asia and beyond); it's a good answer because it mirrors Spam's trajectory from necessity-driven invention to iconic, versatile product with a mix of nostalgia and everyday use, sparking ideas for resilient, adaptable innovations in resource-limited scenarios. It also supports other axes like marketing evolution (both built quirky cultural memes) and economic accessibility

(affordable mass production enabling widespread adoption), plus technological simplicity (easy preparation fostering habitual consumption).

Support other Axes:

Insightful: 0.85

Common Framing: 60%

Answer: Coca-Cola

Primary Axis: Success via military distribution during wartime leading to worldwide brand dominance and cultural embedding, paralleling Spam's global proliferation through US forces.

Reasoning Description: Coca-Cola exploded in popularity during WWII when the US government shipped it to troops overseas, creating lifelong consumers and local bottling plants, much like Spam's inclusion in rations that introduced it to new markets; this is a strong analogy because it highlights how external events (war) can catapult a product from niche to ubiquitous, inspiring strategies for leveraging crises or partnerships for expansion. It also aligns on other dimensions such as clever marketing (both used patriotic and fun campaigns) and adaptability (Coca-Cola's formula tweaks for regions echo Spam's recipe variations), while enduring as a symbol of American culture exported globally.

Support other Axes:

Insightful: 0.75

Common Framing: 75%

Answer: Duct Tape

Primary Axis: Success originating from wartime practicality, evolving into a versatile household essential with cult-like loyalty, akin to Spam's transition from military ration to everyday food.

Reasoning Description: Developed as "duck tape" for WWII ammo sealing and repairs, duct tape succeeded by proving indispensable in harsh conditions, then becoming a go-to fix-all in civilian life with endless DIY applications; it's an insightful parallel to Spam because it shows how utilitarian origins can lead to creative, meme-worthy cultural staying power, prompting ideas for products that thrive on multifunctionality

and user ingenuity rather than perfection. It supports additional axes like durability (both withstand time and abuse) and grassroots popularity (spread via word-of-mouth and hacks, similar to Spam's recipe sharing), plus economic resilience (cheap, reliable in downturns).

Support other Axes:

Insightful: 0.9

Common Framing: 40%