## Word Games and Puzzles



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## bestofthereader.ca

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## Welcome

This e-book is part of a series called Best of The Reader. Most of the material in the e-books is from The Westcoast Reader. It is a newspaper for adults who are improving their English reading skills.

## To the reader

$\checkmark$ You can use this book in a classroom, with a tutor, or on your own.
$\checkmark$ You can check your answers at the end of the book.

## Reading levels

Most of the e-books in this series have three reading levels. This e-book does not have stories. It has puzzles and word games, and there are no reading levels.

## To the teacher

Learners can do the puzzles and word games individually, in pairs, or in groups.

## Teachers' Guide

There is a Teachers' Guide on this website. The guide has ideas on how to use the e-books with students.

## Acknowledgements

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Most of the material in this book first appeared in The Westcoast Reader (1982 to 2009).

## Credits

## Illustrations

Front cover-Find the differences: Nola Johnston
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## Word play

Can you guess these words and expressions?


2


5


9


More on page 6

## Word play

Can you guess these words and expressions?


5


8
ABCDEF GHIJKLM

NOPQRS TVWXYZ

6


YouJustMe
3

| ever |
| :--- |
| ever |
| ever |
| ever |

9

## Find the words: Musical instruments

Find the words in the puzzle. Some words go across and some go down.

banjo

mandolin

djembe

maracas

drums

piano

saxophone

trumpet

sitar

violin

$\left(\begin{array}{lllllllllll}m & h & t & m & a & n & d & 0 & l & i & n \\ a & d & r & m & g & w & l & e & d & j & y \\ r & b & u & e & b & v & i & o & l & i & n \\ a & a & m & h & a & d & j & e & m & b & e \\ c & n & p & j & g & s & e & l & k & y & s \\ a & j & e & n & p & n & k & a & d & z & i \\ s & o & t & h & i & k & i & z & k & z & t \\ s & a & x & o & p & h & o & n & e & m & a \\ a & u & j & r & e & d & r & u & m & s & r \\ c & d & p & n & s & p & i & a & n & o & x\end{array}\right.$

## Find the words: Valentine's Day

Fill in the blanks with words from the puzzle.
On February 14, my boyfriend gave me a big box
of $\qquad$ and a beautiful red $\qquad$ .

I gave him a $\qquad$ and a $\qquad$ card.

In the evening we went to a fancy restaurant. We ordered
a delicious $\qquad$ and a bottle of $\qquad$ .

## Puzzle

Find the words in the puzzle. Some words go across and some go down.

dinner

rose

gift

chocolates


| $a$ | $g$ | $c$ | $p$ | $k$ | $l$ | $r$ | $v$ | $r$ | $t$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $o$ | $h$ | $m$ | $p$ | $z$ | $s$ | $o$ | $a$ | $r$ | $e$ |
| $g$ | $i$ | $f$ | $t$ | $r$ | $f$ | $w$ | $l$ | $o$ | $n$ |
| $r$ | $d$ | $i$ | $n$ | $n$ | $e$ | $r$ | $e$ | $s$ | $k$ |
| $w$ | $i$ | $n$ | $e$ | $t$ | $x$ | $k$ | $n$ | $e$ | $n$ |
| $c$ | $h$ | $o$ | $c$ | $o$ | $l$ | $a$ | $t$ | $e$ | $s$ |
| $b$ | $e$ | $j$ | $r$ | $l$ | $o$ | $t$ | $i$ | $g$ | $y$ |
| $x$ | $a$ | $v$ | $k$ | $v$ | $v$ | $k$ | $n$ | $d$ | $t$ |
| $u$ | $r$ | $t$ | $h$ | $d$ | $i$ | $z$ | $e$ | $h$ | $b$ |
| $o$ | $t$ | $a$ | $j$ | $k$ | $t$ | $p$ | $s$ | $v$ | $t$ |

There is one more "Valentine" word in the puzzle. Can you find it?

## Find the words: Sounds

Circle the correct answers. Then find the words in the puzzle.

1. Cows $\qquad$ .
a. chirp
b. moo
2. Keys $\qquad$ .
a. jingle
b. honk
3. Dogs $\qquad$ .
a. moo
b. bark
4. Kettles $\qquad$ .
a. jingle
b. whistle
5. Bees $\qquad$ .
a. buzz
b. bark
6. Owls $\qquad$ .
a. moo
b. hoot
7. Frogs $\qquad$ .
a. croak
b. meow
8. Clocks $\qquad$ .
a. honk
b. tick
9. Mice $\qquad$ .
a. squeak
b. whistle
10. Lions $\qquad$ .
a. bark
b. roar
11. Cats $\qquad$ .
a. meow
b. tick
12. Ducks $\qquad$ .
a. moo
b. quack
13. Horns $\qquad$ .
a. honk
b. tick
14. Pigs $\qquad$ .

| $j$ | $i$ | $n$ | $g$ | $l$ | $e$ | $e$ | $c$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $b$ | $p$ | $c$ | $s$ | $t$ | $i$ | $c$ | $k$ |
| $a$ | 0 | $b$ | $q$ | $l$ | $j$ | $q$ | $k$ |
| $r$ | $p$ | $u$ | $u$ | $a$ | $c$ | $m$ | $m$ |
| $k$ | 0 | $z$ | $e$ | $y$ | $r$ | 0 | $i$ |
| $e$ | $i$ | $z$ | $a$ | $l$ | 0 | 0 | $x$ |
| $g$ | $n$ | $d$ | $k$ | $a$ | $a$ | $w$ | $a$ |
| $y$ | $k$ | $f$ | 0 | 0 | $k$ | $h$ | $q$ |
| $n$ | $a$ | $m$ | $e$ | 0 | $w$ | $i$ | $u$ |
| $i$ | $r$ | 0 | $a$ | $r$ | $l$ | $s$ | $a$ |
| $h$ | 0 | 0 | $t$ | $g$ | $u$ | $t$ | $c$ |
| $h$ | 0 | $n$ | $k$ | $y$ | $i$ | $l$ | $k$ |
| $h$ | $g$ | 0 | $b$ | $b$ | $l$ | $e$ | $x$ |

a. oink
b. hiss
15. Balloons $\qquad$ .
a. bleep
b. pop
16. Turkeys $\qquad$ .
a. gobble
b. ping


## Find the words: Chinese zodiac

Each year of the Chinese lunar calendar is named after one of 12 animals. Find the 12 animals in the puzzle. Some words go across and some go down.

dog

pig

$\left.\begin{array}{llllllllll}q & t & p & i & g & y & c & e & u & u \\ q & g & s & n & a & k & e & a & i & b \\ d & o & r & 0 & x & z & x & l & b & c \\ r & a & a & p & b & r & n & n & r & h \\ a & t & b & c & z & r & r & m & o & o \\ g & j & b & x & r & a & t & 0 & o & r \\ 0 & q & i & a & k & k & e & n & s & s \\ n & x & t & i & g & e & r & k & t & e \\ f & f & g & j & p & w & b & e & e & q \\ j & j & d & p & d & o & g & y & r & o\end{array}\right]$

## The 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac

> Each year on the Chinese lunar calendar is named after one of 12 animals. Each animal has different qualities. Find the year you were born. Do you have the same qualities as the animal the year is named after?

Rat - 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996
Rats are friendly. They work hard and save their money.
Ox - 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997
Oxen are good listeners. They are strong, but a bit stubborn.


Tiger - 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998
Tigers are brave and strong. They like excitement.
Rabbit - 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999
Rabbits are smart and polite. They are often shy.
Dragon - 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000
Dragons are good at politics. They are proud and flashy.


Snake - 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001
Snakes are successful and wise. They can be tricky.


Horse - 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002
Horses are cheerful and popular. They are sometimes impatient.
Sheep - 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003
Sheep are talented and artistic. They always get ahead in life.
Monkey - 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004
Monkeys are funny and like to play tricks. They love new things.
Rooster - 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005
Roosters are good workers. They have lots of friends.
Dog - 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006
Dogs are faithful and friendly. They can keep a secret.


Pig- 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007
Pigs are honest, brave, and proud. They love to learn.

## Find the differences

Can you find 8 differences
between picture A and picture B ?


Picture B on page 13

## Find the differences



8
Each time you find a difference, circle it, and put a checkmark in a box.


## Find the differences

Can you find 8 differences
between picture A and picture B ?
A


Picture B on page 15

## Find the differences

B


8
Each time you find a difference, circle it, and put a checkmark in a box.
$\square \square \square \square \square \square \square \square$

## Find the differences

Can you find 12 differences
between picture A and picture B ?
A The office of the editor of The Westcoast Reader in 1982.


## Find the differences

B The office of the editor of The Westcoast Reader in 2009


12
Each time you find a difference, circle it, and put a checkmark in a box.
$\square$

## Crossword: Nature

Across

## Crossword: Opposites



Write the opposite of each word below in the crossword puzzle.

## Across

1. Opposite of buy
2. Opposite of push
3. Opposite of true
4. Opposite of soft
5. Opposite of wide
6. Opposite of right
7. Opposite of black
8. Opposite of early

## Down

2. Opposite of cheap
3. Opposite of empty
4. Opposite of cooked
5. Opposite of last
6. Opposite of cold
7. Opposite of clean

## Crossword: Balls



Crossword: Things to do in the summer


7. Go for a $\qquad$ .

8. Sleep in a $\qquad$


2. Plant some

4. Catch a $\qquad$

5. Fly a $\qquad$ -


## Sudoku

Many people like to play Sudoku. It is a number puzzle.

Start with an easy Sudoku
Here is an easy Sudoku puzzle. It has 16 squares.

Rule
Each column of four squares, each row of four squares, and each box of four squares must have the numbers $1,2,3$, and 4 in any order.


## Try these two Sudoku puzzles




More on page 23

## Sudoku

These three Sudokus are a little more difficult. They each have 36 squares.

## Rules

Each column of six squares, each row of six squares, and each box of six squares must have the numbers 1 to 6 .


3


More on page 24

## Sudoku

These three Sudokus are even more difficult. They each have 81 squares.

## Rules

Each column of nine squares, each row of nine squares, and each box of nine squares (three squares by three squares) must have the numbers 1 to 9 .

## 1

| 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 |  | 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 8 |  | 6 |  | 9 |  | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 |  | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 |  | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
|  |  | 9 |  | 6 |  | 8 |  |  |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 |  | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 |  | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 |  | 2 |  | 6 |  | 1 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 |  | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 |



## Tongue twisters

Tongue twisters are phrases or sentences that are hard to say quickly and correctly. They are good pronunciation practice. Try to say each of these quickly three times.


- A black bug's blood

Six silly sisters selling shiny shoes

Willy's real rear wheel

He threw three free throws.


## Riddles

Riddles are popular in many countries. They are a kind of puzzle. You have to guess the answer to a riddle.

The answers to these riddles are on page 28.

1
What can you catch but not throw?

2
What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do?

3
What does everyone in the world do at the same time?
4. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but never sleeps?

5
What has teeth, but cannot bite?

## Do you know a riddle?

Write it on the lines.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Answers for puzzles

## Word play (p 5)

1. high school
2. sidewalk
3. partly cloudy
4. big trouble
5. buckle up

Word play (p 6)

1. think twice
2. Tuesday
3. leftovers
4. stepmother
5. yearly checkup
6. little bit
7. crosswalk
8. missing you
9. just between you and me

## Musical instruments (p 7)



## Valentine’s Day (p 8)

| $a$ | $g$ | $c$ | $p$ | $k$ | $l$ | $r$ | $v$ | $r$ | $t$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $o$ | $h$ | $m$ | $p$ | $z$ | $s$ | $o$ | $a$ | $r$ | $e$ |
| $a$ | $i$ | $f$ | $t$ | $r$ | $f$ | $w$ | $l$ | $o$ | $n$ |
| $r$ | $d$ | $i$ | $n$ | $n$ | $e$ | $r$ | $e$ | $s$ | $k$ |
| $w$ | $i$ | $n$ | $e$ | $t$ | $x$ | $k$ | $n$ | $e$ | $n$ |
| $c$ | $h$ | 0 | $c$ | $o$ | $l$ | $a$ | $t$ | $e$ | $s$ |
| $b$ | $e$ | $j$ | $r$ | $l$ | $o$ | $t$ | $i$ | $g$ | $y$ |
| $x$ | $a$ | $v$ | $k$ | $v$ | $v$ | $k$ | $n$ | $d$ | $t$ |
| $u$ | $r$ | $t$ | $h$ | $d$ | $i$ | $z$ | $e$ | $h$ | $b$ |
| $o$ | $t$ | $a$ | $j$ | $k$ | $t$ | $p$ | $s$ | $v$ | $t$ |

The extra word is heart.

## Sounds (p 9)

| 1 b | 9 a |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 a | 10 b |
| 3 b | 11 a |
| 4 b | 12 b |
| 5 a | 13 a |
| 6 b | 14 a |
| 7 a | 15 b |
| 8 b | 16 a |


|  | i | n | 9 | 1 |  |  | , | c |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{p}$ | c | $s$ | $t$ | i |  |  |  |
|  | 0 | $b$ | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $\mathbf{P}$ | $u$ | 4 |  |  |  |  | $m$ |
|  |  | $z$ | e | $y$ | r |  |  | i |
| e | i | $z$ | a |  | $\bigcirc$ |  |  | $x$ |
| 9 | $n$ | d | k | a | a |  |  | a |
|  |  | $f$ | 0 |  |  |  |  | 9 |
|  |  | $m$ | e | - |  |  |  | 4 |
|  | r | 0 |  |  |  |  |  | a |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  | c |
|  |  | n |  |  |  |  |  | k |
|  | 9 | 0 | $b$ | $b$ | 1 |  | e | $\times$ |

Chinese zodiac (p 10)

| 0 | $x$ | $e$ | $y$ | $h$ | $d$ | $i$ | $b$ | $e$ | $v$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $h$ | $o$ | $r$ | $s$ | $e$ | $r$ | $z$ | $p$ | $c$ | $t$ |
| $s$ | $t$ | $o$ | $v$ | $l$ | $a$ | $c$ | $i$ | $i$ | $i$ |
| $h$ | $r$ | $a$ | $t$ | $a$ | $g$ | $p$ | $g$ | $g$ | $g$ |
| $e$ | 0 | $i$ | $a$ | $a$ | 0 | $a$ | $t$ | $w$ | $e$ |
| $e$ | 0 | $d$ | $l$ | $x$ | $n$ | $w$ | $u$ | $d$ | $r$ |
| $p$ | $s$ | 0 | $m$ | 0 | $n$ | $k$ | $e$ | $y$ | $q$ |
| $p$ | $t$ | $g$ | $a$ | $d$ | $q$ | $w$ | $d$ | $j$ | $x$ |
| $w$ | $e$ | $r$ | $a$ | $b$ | $b$ | $i$ | $t$ | $z$ | $b$ |
| $l$ | $r$ | $x$ | $s$ | $n$ | $a$ | $k$ | $e$ | $h$ | $f$ |

Find the differences (pages 12-13)
In Picture B

1. CAD on briefcase
2. Pants are short
3. BUS SPOT
4. Buttons are on other side of coat
5. Stitching on second button is horizontal
6. Hand is out of pocket
7. Scarf has two ends
8. Craig Freeman '98

## Answers for puzzles

Find the differences (pages 14-15)
In Picture B

1. Man is wearing glasses
2. Two plants
3. Board says Exercise A
4. Dictionary is on the desk
5. Sign says History
6. Clock is round
7. Name of newspaper is Eastcoast Reader
8. Newspaper has two pages

Find the differences (p 16-17)
In Picture B

1. Calendar is for May 2009
2. Picture on calendar is different
3. Plant is bigger
4. Framed painting
5. Computer
6. Cordless phone
7. Framed photo on desk is different
8. Different issue of The Westcoast Reader
9. Editor's hair is shorter
10. Editor looks older
11. Wastebasket
12. Book bag says Capilano University

Crossword: Nature (p18)


Crossword: Opposites (p 19)


Crossword: Balls (p 20)


Crossword: Things to do (p 21)


## Answers for puzzles

## Sudoku (p 22)

Sudoku 1

| 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |

Sudoku 2

| 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

Sudoku (p 23)

| 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |

2

| 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 |


| 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 |

## Sudoku (p 24)

1

| 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 |

2

| 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 |


| 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 |

Riddles (p 25)

1. A cold
2. Your name
3. Grow older
4. A river
5. A comb
