Word Games and Puzzles

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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

✓ You can use this book in a classroom, with a tutor, or on your own.
✓ 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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Credits

Illustrations
Front cover—Find the differences: Nola Johnston
Pages: 8, 9, 18, 20, 21, 25: Guy Parsons; Pages 14, 15, 16, 17: Nola Johnston; Page 7: Stockphotos; Pages 12, 13: Craig Freeman; Pages 10, 11: Government Information Office, Republic of China (Taiwan)
Word play

Can you guess these words and expressions?

1. school
2. coffee
3. WALK
4. store
5. cloudy
6. MILLION
7. TROUBLE
8. EVER EVER EVER EVER
9. elk cub

More on page 6
Word play

Can you guess these words and expressions?

1. think think
2. 22222 DAY
3. over over over over
4. MOTHER
5. ✔ yearly
6. bit
7. WALK LK
8. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
9. YouJustMe
Find the words: Musical instruments

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

bagpipes  banjo  djembe  drums

horn  mandolin  maracas  piano

saxophone  sitar

trumpet  violin
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 __________ and a beautiful red __________.

I gave him a _______ and a ___________ card.

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

Puzzle

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

valentine
gift
dinner
chocolates
rose
wine

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 ___.
   a. chirp
   b. moo

2. Keys ___.
   a. jingle
   b. honk

3. Dogs ___.
   a. moo
   b. bark

4. Kettles ___.
   a. jingle
   b. whistle

5. Bees ___.
   a. buzz
   b. bark

6. Owls ___.
   a. moo
   b. hoot

7. Frogs ___.
   a. croak
   b. meow

8. Clocks ___.
   a. honk
   b. tick

9. Mice ___.
   a. squeak
   b. whistle

10. Lions ___.
    a. bark
    b. roar

11. Cats ___.
    a. meow
    b. tick

12. Ducks ___.
    a. moo
    b. quack

13. Horns ___.
    a. honk
    b. tick

14. Pigs ___.
    a. oink
    b. hiss

15. Balloons ___.
    a. bleep
    b. pop

16. Turkeys ___.
    a. gobble
    b. ping

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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.

rat ox tiger rabbit
dragon snake horse sheep
monkey rooster
dog pig
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?

Rats are friendly. They work hard and save their money.

Oxen are good listeners. They are strong, but a bit stubborn.

Tigers are brave and strong. They like excitement.

Rabbits are smart and polite. They are often shy.

Dragons are good at politics. They are proud and flashy.

Snakes are successful and wise. They can be tricky.

Horses are cheerful and popular. They are sometimes impatient.

Sheep are talented and artistic. They always get ahead in life.

Monkeys are funny and like to play tricks. They love new things.

Roosters are good workers. They have lots of friends.

Dogs are faithful and friendly. They can keep a secret.

Pigs are honest, brave, and proud. They love to learn.
Find the differences

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

Craig Freeman '88

☞ Picture B on page 13
Find the differences

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

8

Craig Freeman ’98  

The Westcoast Reader 3/1988
Find the differences

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

A

Homework
Read p.16
Do exercise B

Westcoast Reader

☞ Picture B on page 15
Find the differences

B

Homework
Read p. 16
Do exercise A

8

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

The Westcoast Reader 11/2002
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

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

12
Crossword: Opposites

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

Across
1. Opposite of buy
4. Opposite of push
6. Opposite of true
7. Opposite of soft
9. Opposite of wide
10. Opposite of right
11. Opposite of black
12. Opposite of early

Down
2. Opposite of cheap
3. Opposite of empty
5. Opposite of cooked
6. Opposite of last
7. Opposite of cold
8. Opposite of clean
Crossword: Balls

What is the name of the sport that goes with each ball?

Across

1. Football

3. Baseball

7. Cricket

8. Golf

Down

1. 2

2. Basketball

4. Soccer

5. Bowling

6. Tennis
Crossword: Things to do in the summer

Across
3. Play ______.

6. Paddle a ______.

7. Go for a ______.

8. Sleep in a ______.

Down
1. Have a ________.

2. Plant some ________.

4. Catch a ______.

5. Fly a ______.
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**

![Sudoku puzzle 1](image1)

![Sudoku puzzle 2](image2)

More on page 23
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.

---

**1**

```
1 3
6
2 5
3 2
3 4
4 2
```

**2**

```
1 3 3
3 6 6
2 1 4
5
6 3 5
```

**3**

```
2 1 2
5 2
6 4
2 3
2 4
1 5
```
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.

________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________

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Answers for puzzles

Word play (p 5)
1. high school  2. coffee break
3. sidewalk  4. corner store
5. partly cloudy  6. one in a million
7. big trouble  8. forever
9. 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)

Chinese zodiac (p 10)

Sounds (p 9)
1b  9a
2a  10b
3b  11a
4b  12b
5a  13a
6b  14a
7a  15b
8b  16a

Valentine’s Day (p 8)
The extra word is heart.

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
Find the differences (pages 14–15)
In Picture B
1. Man is wearing glasses
2. Two plants
3. Dictionary is on the desk
4. Sign says History
5. Clock is round
6. Name of newspaper is Eastcoast Reader
7. 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 (p 18)

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)

1

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

3

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

3

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

w w w . b e s t o f t h e r e a d e r . c a