

# The **READ**Saskatoon **READer**

May, 2006



READ Saskatoon's  
adult learners want  
to thank you!

In 2004, READ Saskatoon initiated our adult learner and tutor awards. We annually rotate the awards and this year we asked READ Saskatoon's adult learners to nominate their tutors. We are excited to announce 20 tutors were nominated by their learners!

Tutors nominated include: Marc Anderson, Kristy Heinbigner, Nancy Senior, Kelly Janson, Jeff Billo, Sally Cochrane, Dayle Armstrong, Trevor Howitt, Julie Bidwell, Joanna Len, Marge Jamieson, Scott MacBean, Mona Sjolander, Elaine Hamm, Jennie Sigardson, Geraldine Grovestine, Jean Cassidy, and Mavis Hopewell.

Special congratulations to the winner of the Sylvia Vicq Tutor Award. Joe Elie was nominated by his learner-partner, Lee Wang. Congratulations Joe, for all you give to your learner and READ Saskatoon.

**Thanks**

## May 27<sup>th</sup>

Now that we have your attention, make sure you come to our third annual **YEAR END EVENT!**

What a year! And we want to celebrate our successes!



**Where?** Kinsmen Park shelter (across Spadina Crescent from the Mendel Art Gallery)

**Time:** Saturday May 27, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Will there be food?** Hotdogs, juice and fruit will be made available.

**What if it rains?** It is go no matter what! Come rain, shine or even snow!

There's so much to celebrate: your hard work, our tutors' volunteering, our board and the list goes on.

**Please call to register at 652-5448. See you there!**

# What is a sentence?

Rules and examples to help you make simple sentences.

To make a sentence you need 3 things:

**1. A sentence is a group of words that makes sense on its own.**

*Cheese, car, house, table on Tuesday.*

This isn't a sentence - it doesn't make sense.

*I parked my car next to my house.*

This is a sentence. You can understand what it means. It makes sense on its own.

**2. When you are writing you need to use the right sentence punctuation.**

Using punctuation will show the person who is reading your writing where the sentences begin and end.

- A sentence must begin with a capital letter.
- A sentence must end with a full-stop (.), a question mark (?), or an exclamation mark (!).

BEWARE! Sometimes people confuse the punctuation to use at the end of a sentence. You can use commas (,), colons (:) or semicolons (;) in your writing, but they should never be used at the end of a sentence.

**3. A sentence also needs two kinds of words in it:**

- A sentence must have a **VERB** (a doing word).  
e.g. *like, is, cooking, walked, need.*
- A sentence must also have a **SUBJECT**. This is the person, or the thing, that is doing the verb.  
e.g. *I, Beppe, Tuesday, dog, you, table, the weather,.*

Here are some examples of sentences that show you the **verbs** and the **subjects**:

Last week **Peggy redecorated** the kitchen.

**Are you** hungry yet?

**Martin, be** quiet.

**Tuesday was** very rainy and cold.

**Other things to know about sentences:**

Sentences can be very short, or very long. There is no correct number of words that should be in a sentence. The length of the sentence depends on what you want to say and the effect you want to get.

BEWARE! If your sentences go on for many lines, make sure that you haven't really put several sentences together as one sentence.

It's important to remember that you don't always need to write in sentences. For example, a shopping list doesn't need sentences, but a job application does.

[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar/sentencebasics/whatisasentence/factsheet.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar/sentencebasics/whatisasentence/factsheet.shtml)

# Syllabication

Circle the correct way to divide the word into syllables.

- |                     |                 |                 |                  |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. dum-b            | d-umb           | dumb            | d-um-b           |
| 2. ant-hrop-olo-g-y | ant-hrop-olo-gy | ant-hropolo-g-y | an-thro-pol-o-gy |
| 3. p-rol-ong        | pro-l-ong       | pro-long        | prolong          |
| 4. e-nr-ich         | en-rich         | enri-ch         | enr-ich          |
| 5. im-mat-ure       | im-ma-ture      | imm-at-ure      | imm-ature        |
| 6. man-or           | manor           | ma-no-r         | mano-r           |

Write the number of syllables that each word contains.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 7. prophet _____     | 10. urge _____   |
| 8. implication _____ | 11. define _____ |
| 9. possibility _____ | 12. flimsy _____ |

Divide each word into its syllables.

13. interior _____	14. handkerchief _____
15. slight _____	16. depth _____
17. voyage _____	18. coax _____

Use the following syllables to fill in the blanks and form words:  
deb, ci, in, as, a, ate, ble, tol, er, it, so

19. ____ + ____
20. ____ + ____ + ____ + ____ + ____
21. ____ + ____ + ____ + ____

## Change these Idioms to Plain English:

He was **all ears** when his boss talked.

The test will be a **piece of cake**!

You can't leave now! It's **raining cats and dogs**!

The job offer sounds good, but maybe you should **sleep on it** before giving your decision.

Don't believe everything he tells you. He was probably **pulling your leg**!

Source: [www.eslcafe.com/idioms](http://www.eslcafe.com/idioms)

# The Story of Mother's Day

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honour of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 1600's, England celebrated a day



called "Mothering Sunday". Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter), "Mothering Sunday" honoured the mothers of England. During this time many of the England's poor worked as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located far from their homes, the servants would live at the houses of their employers. On Mothering Sunday the servants would have the day off and were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers. A special cake, called the mothering cake, was often brought along to provide a festive touch.

In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, businessmen, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. It was successful as by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. President Woodrow

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Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

## Do other countries celebrate Mother's Day?

You bet they do!  
Denmark, Finland,  
Italy, Turkey,  
Australia and



Belgium celebrate Mother's Day on the same day as Canada and the United States. Other countries celebrate Mother's Day as well, though not on the same day. This year, Mother's Day is on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Spice up the Mother's Day festivities with an activity or two.

- Interview your mother and/or grandmother. Ask questions about her birth, childhood, and what she did when she was a teenager. Find out favorite subjects in school, how she met your father or grandfather. Inquire about her favorite job. What were circumstances and events like when you were born? End the interview by expressing your love for her.
- Get together with a few other families and play the Mother/Child Game. Divide into four mother/child teams. Ask the mothers to leave the room while the children sit in chairs. Ask the same four or five questions to each child about their mothers. Bring in the mothers and ask them the same questions. Will the mother and child have the same answers?

Switch places and see how well the mothers know the children. Award a red carnation to the winning mother/child team.

- Question Ideas: Favorite colour, movie, candy bar, colour of toothbrush, memorable moment with you, best friend, hobby, talent, food, animal, cartoon, pizza topping, ice cream topping and restaurant. Most embarrassing moment. Favorite holiday.



Source: [www.holidays.net](http://www.holidays.net)

## Funny Ha-Ha's

### Playing With Our Words

My wife was in labour with our first child. Things were going pretty well when suddenly she began to shout, "Shouldn't, couldn't, wouldn't, didn't, can't!" "Doctor, what's wrong with my wife?" "Nothing. She's just having contractions."

### Quacking Up

A duck walks into a drugstore and asks for a tube of ChapStick. The cashier says to the duck, "That'll be \$1.49." The duck replies, "Put it on my bill!"

### Where are you from?

If you're Canadian in the kitchen, what are you in the bathroom? European.  
What are you on your way to the bathroom? You're Russian.

### Riddles

Q. Why don't mountains get cold in the winter?

A. They wear snow caps.

Q. When is a car not a car?

A. When it turns into a garage.

Q. If Mr. and Mrs. Bigger had a baby, who would be the biggest of the three?

A. The baby, because he's a little Bigger!

- Source: [www.kidsdomain.com](http://www.kidsdomain.com)

## Movies & Entertainment Match

Match the words in the first column to the best available answer in the second column.

recreation  
entertainment  
thriller  
comedy  
plot  
drama  
biography  
mystery  
horror  
science fiction  
silent movie  
play  
concert  
theater  
cartoon  
tearjerker  
novel  
history  
narrator  
forecast

live music  
usually bloody  
a place to see a play  
someone who tells a story  
documented facts from past events  
serious

story  
a story that may be fiction or based on a true story  
fun  
tomorrow's weather  
animated  
not true but based on science  
makes you laugh  
about someone's life  
scary movie

subtitles only  
something that you do in your spare time  
written by Shakespeare for example  
makes you cry a lot  
you only find out the facts at the end



- [www.school.discovery.com](http://www.school.discovery.com)

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## WORKSKILLS WEBSITE ON BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Here is something else for workplace survival. BBC Learning English have a mini-website all about communication skills needed when applying for jobs. The site includes information on written, face to face and telephone communication and doing well at job interviews as well as the all important non-verbal communication! Find out more here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/work/workskills/ws1.shtml>



## Memos and E-mails

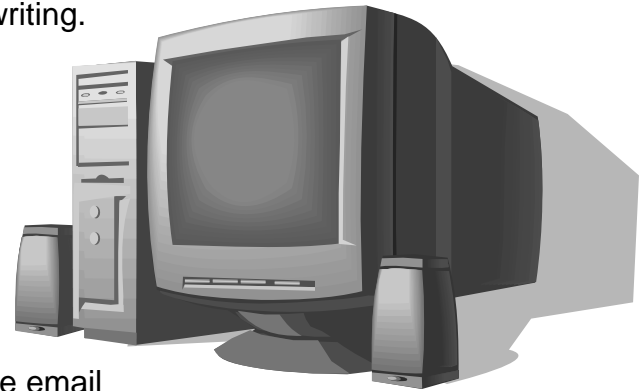
**Memos** A memo (short for memorandum) is usually used in a work environment. It is written in note form and is used to inform or remind people. The content of a memo is usually very brief. No full stops are required in the subheadings (i.e. From, To, Date, Subject). However the main text contains normal punctuation.

MEMORANDUM	
<b>From:</b>	Louise Smith
<b>To:</b>	Jodie Thomas
<b>Date:</b>	5 January 2005
<b>Subject:</b>	Staff meeting - change of date
Please note that the date of the next staff meeting has been changed. We will now be meeting on the 18 <sup>th</sup> January and not the 7 <sup>th</sup> January as we previously planned. The time of meeting is the same as before.	

**Emails** If you have access to a computer that is linked to the internet, then you can send emails (electronic mail). These have a similar format to memo writing.

Emails can be used for short communications to friends or for work-related situations. There are many advantages to using emails:

- You do not need a stamp
- Emails can be sent and received almost instantly
- You can electronically 'attach' documents or pictures. These can then be printed out by the person receiving the email
- You can send the same message to a number of people at the same time
- You can use the spellchecker and grammar checker to help proofread your text.



To send an email you need to:

- Know the email address of the person you are writing to along with the email addresses of anyone else to whom you want to send a copy
- Type a short, appropriate title in the 'subject' box so that the reader knows what the communication is about. (No full stops are required in this box)
- You can electronically 'attach' documents or pictures. These can then be printed out by the person receiving the email
- Type the main text of the email using correct punctuation

- [www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/writing/planningyourwriting/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/writing/planningyourwriting/)

## Using English Articles



Because the English articles (**a, an, the**) are often very challenging for learners, the next several hints will provide guidelines on their usage.

The definite article **the** is used in several different ways:

- one use is with nouns that are specifically identified because the listener knows (or can assume) that one specific noun is being talked about.
- Another use of **the** happens when a non-specific noun is mentioned more than one time: the first time the noun is mentioned, **a** or **an** is used. After the noun has been mentioned the first time, however, **the** is used at that point it's clear which noun is being referred to. (Example: Tony bought **a** computer yesterday. He paid for **the** computer with money he earned by working after school.) or ( I heard Sheryl had **a** baby. Do you know **the** baby's name?) check out more examples at:  
[www.eslcafe.com/webhints/hints.cgi](http://www.eslcafe.com/webhints/hints.cgi)

## Turn off TV, Turn on a Healthier Lifestyle

Turning off the TV is a great way to improve the health of you and your family. There are two keys to being healthy – exercise and diet. Watching less TV can help you with both of these.

### TV-Turnoff Tips

- Keep the TV off during meals.
- Exercise as a family by taking walks, riding bikes, or learning a sport.
- Move your television to a less prominent location.
- Designate certain days of the week as TV-free days.
- Do not use television as a reward.
- Remove the TV set from your child's bedroom.
- Hide the remote.
- Don't worry if children say they are bored. Boredom passes and often leads to creativity.

“The easiest way to reduce inactivity is to turn off the TV set. Almost anything uses more energy than watching TV.”

— Dr. William Dietz, CDC

Because children are influenced by what their parents do, it is important that whatever effort you make to exercise more, eat better, or watch less TV is done as a family.

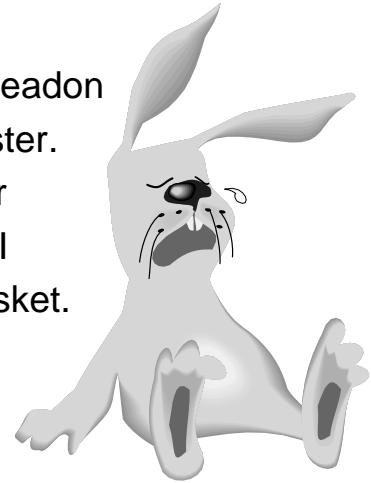
Source: [www.tvturnoff.org](http://www.tvturnoff.org)

# READer Family Fun Page

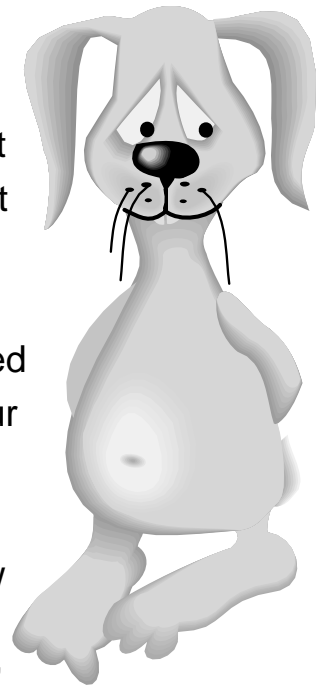
## Happy Easter

By Dorothy Headon

Hi! My name is Donna. I'm going to tell you a true story. It was Easter. I came down the stairs and sat in the big armchair. I noticed the door was slightly open. Then I saw something dark hopping by the door. I decided to follow it. I thought it was a rabbit, but it was carrying a basket. I thought, "That is strange." The rabbit hopped down a hole.



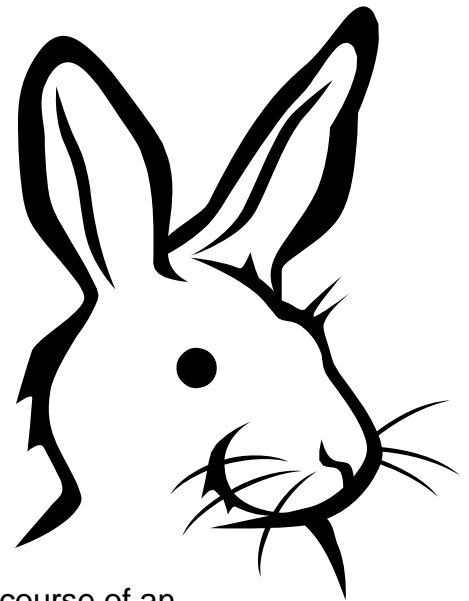
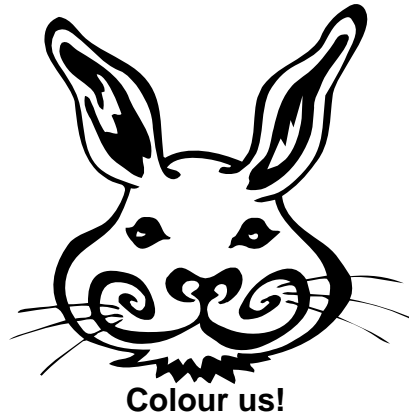
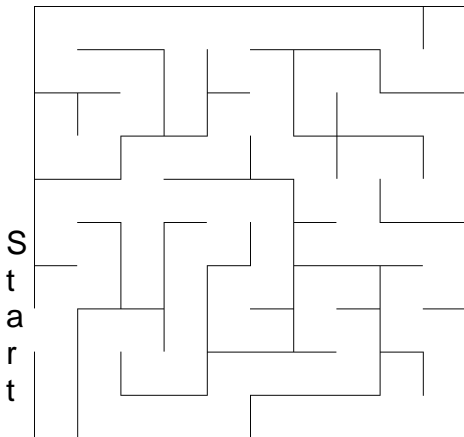
In the hole were three rabbits: a mother and father rabbit and a baby rabbit. The mother told the father, "There are more baskets on the table; take those and drop the eggs at the park." The father rabbit said, "I need help. Peter can help me hide the eggs. I won't get the eggs hidden before daylight." Mother rabbit didn't say anything. The little rabbit said, "Please, mother, I want to help dad hide the eggs." Mother said, "You stay close to your father when you are above ground. Peter agreed to stay close. Mother rabbit waved her paw as father rabbit handed a basket to Peter. Father rabbit kissed mother and the rabbits hopped out of the hole.



I followed them and watched them hide the eggs. Their baskets seemed never to empty. Peter told father, "It is almost daylight and we have four parks to go. Peter said, "If you do two and I do two we'll be done in no time," Father said, "I agree, but we have to meet here and we can't tell your mother." After a while father rabbit was waiting. Peter didn't show up. Father rabbit decided to go check the parks where Peter was. Father rabbit had to go home. Mother asked, "Is Peter with you?" "No!" said father. "He was supposed to meet me by the old oak tree, but he didn't show. I checked at the park. I didn't give him a map." Mother rabbit said, "I put one in his

basket.” Mother rabbit started to whimper. Father rabbit said, “Don’t worry; he’ll come home when he’s hungry. Peter was playing, having a good old time. Suddenly, he remembered he had to meet his father. He ran as fast as he could. He kept saying “I can do it” and hopped faster. He got to the tree; “Oh no! I missed him.” He had to think. Which way home? He was starting to get hungry. He knew there was one candy egg in the basket so he ate it. When he looked in the basket he saw a piece of paper and looked at it; a map! But Peter said, “It’s a puzzle. I can’t figure it out.”

Can you help Peter?



### Bet you didn't know.....

- It is impossible for most people to lick their own elbow. (Try it!)
- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- If you sneeze too hard, you could fracture a rib.
- Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.
- In the course of an average lifetime, while sleeping you might eat around 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders, or more.
- Some lipsticks contain fish scales.
- Cat urine glows under a black-light.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.