

Families



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bestofthereader.ca

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Welcome


This e-book is part of a series called Best of The Reader. The stories in the e-books are 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.
- ✓ Each story has exercises to go with it. These exercises can help you improve your English and reading skills.
- ✓ You can check your answers at the end of the book.

Three reading levels

There are three reading levels in this book. Here are the symbols for each level:

Level 1 

Level 2 

Level 3 

To the teacher

Learners can read the articles and do the exercises individually, in pairs, or in groups.

The topics can be explored further through discussion or follow-up activities.

Teachers' Guide

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

Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Capilano University for this project.

A special thank you to the learners and teachers who helped choose the articles for this book.

All of the material in this book first appeared in *The Westcoast Reader* (1982 to 2009). Some of the articles have been updated. Most of the exercises and activities for learners are based on material from *The Westcoast Reader Teachers' Notes* (1982 to 2009).

Credits

Photos

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Illustrations

Page 5 (map), 9, 10, 11, 12, 23 (map): Nola Johnston; Page 6, 14, 22, 23; Guy Parsons; Page 13 (grandmother) Edith Schermer <www.edithart.nl>; Page 15–21: ©King Features Syndicate. Reproduced with permission—Torstar Syndication Services



A family farm



Len and Gerda Kooyman and their seven sons.

Len and Gerda Kooyman have a farm near Chilliwack. The Kooymans have seven sons. Everyone in the family helps on the farm.

The Kooymans have 2,000 cows. They milk the cows every day.



Chilliwack is 100 kilometres east of Vancouver. It is in the Fraser Valley.

Unscramble the words

Put the words in the right order to make sentences.

1. family farm Kooyman a has The

2. Chilliwack near The is farm

3. have The 2,000 Kooymans cows

Baby animals



Match each adult animal with the correct baby animal.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. cow <u>g</u> | a. kitten |
| 2. dog ____ | b. lamb |
| 3. sheep ____ | c. fawn |
| 4. cat ____ | d. gosling |
| 5. hen ____ | e. puppy |
| 6. deer ____ | f. chick |
| 7. bear ____ | g. calf |
| 8. goose ____ | h. cub |

Animal sounds

Match each animal with the sound it makes.



- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. cows <u>f</u> | a. quack |
| 2. dogs ____ | b. oink |
| 3. ducks ____ | c. buzz |
| 4. lions ____ | d. hiss |
| 5. bees ____ | e. bark |
| 6. pigs ____ | f. moo |
| 7. frogs ____ | g. roar |
| 8. snakes ____ | h. croak |

Baby names



What did parents in British Columbia name their babies in 2018?

This chart shows the 10 most popular names for girls and boys.

	Girls	Boys
1	Olivia	Liam
2	Amelia	Oliver
3	Chloe	Logan
4	Ava	Noah
5	Emily	James
6	Hannah	Owen
7	Evelyn	Jacob
8	Mia	Jack
9	Ella	Mason
10	Scarlett	Jackson

Source: <https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/vs/babynames/baby2018.html>

Name quiz

The FIFA U-20 World Cup was in Canada in 2007.

Soccer teams from 24 countries played in the tournament. Most of the players were 18 and 19 years old.

The eight names below are the first names of some of the players. Can you match the names with the countries?



- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| ___ 1. Masato | a. Nigeria |
| ___ 2. Tomasz | b. Jordan |
| ___ 3. Nduka | c. Portugal |
| ___ 4. Alejandro | d. Korea |
| ___ 5. Calum | e. Japan |
| ___ 6. João | f. Poland |
| ___ 7. Abdallah | g. Scotland |
| ___ 8. Jin Hyun | h. Argentina |

The Westcoast Reader 9/2007 • Source: www.fifa.com/u20worldcup

Baby names

Fill in the blanks with information from the chart on page 7.

1. Four names that start with “J”

2. Two names that end with “H”

3. How many names have double letters?

4. Two names with “Y” in them

5. Two names with three letters

Alphabetical order

Put these eight names in alphabetical order.

Masato

Tomasz

Nduka

Alejandro

Calum

João


Abdallah

Jin Hyun

A B C D
E F G H
I J K L
M N O P
Q R S T
U V W X
Y Z

Helping children learn

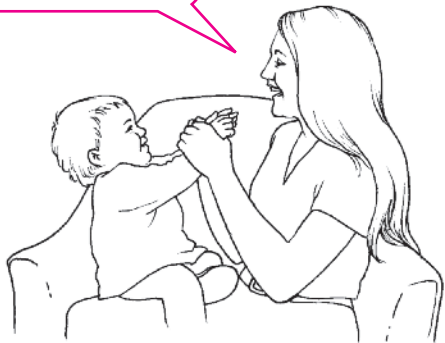


 Families use language every day. They speak, listen, read, and write.

Children begin to learn at home. How can you help children learn?

- Read to your children. Start when they are babies.
- Teach your children nursery rhymes and songs.

Pat-a-cake,
Pat-a-cake . . .



■ Tell your children stories. They can also make up their own stories.

■ Read a recipe and cook together.



■ Go for a walk with your children. Talk about the things you see.

■ Talk about family photos and special traditions.



The Westcoast Reader 3/2007

Make a scrapbook with your child

Many children like to make scrapbooks. They can work on their scrapbooks with a parent or relative. They often like to look at the scrapbook again and again.

You and your child can make a scrapbook together.

You will need

- ✓ a scrapbook or large notebook
- ✓ glue or tape
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ markers
- ✓ photos, cards, postcards, and drawings

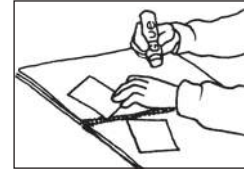


Devan and her mom are making a scrapbook together.

What to do

Collect the things you want to put into the scrapbook.

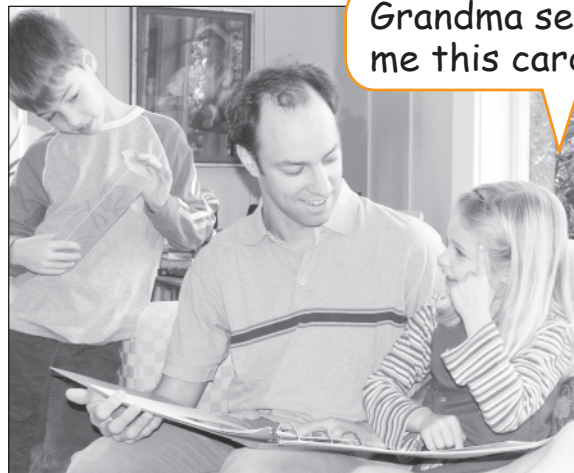
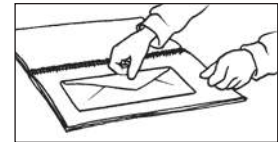
Glue these things into the scrapbook.



Help your child write in the scrapbook.



Glue an empty envelope on one page. Your child can put special things in the envelope.



Devan likes to talk about the things in her scrapbook.

The Westcoast Reader 3/2005 • Adapted from English Express

Finish the sentences

Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

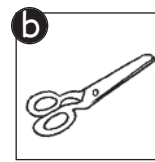
1. There are many things you can do to help your children _____.
2. Read to your _____. Start when they are _____.
3. _____ your children stories.
4. Talk about _____ photos and special _____.
5. Read a _____ and cook _____.
6. Go for a _____ with your children. Talk _____ things you see.
7. Teach your children _____ rhymes.

nursery	together	babies	Tell	their	songs	traditions
about	language	recipe	walk	family	learn	children

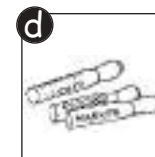
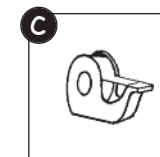
Unscramble and match

Unscramble the letters to make a word.
Then match the word to the correct drawing.

1. kerrmas _____



2. epat _____



3. sosrsics _____

4. legu _____

Rhymes, songs, and lullabies

■ Rhymes and songs are fun for children. They help children learn.

This is the first verse of a song for children. Choose the rhyming word to finish each line. Then read the verse out loud. Can you hear the rhyme and rhythm? Do you know the melody? Can you sing it?

Twinkle, twinkle, little _____

How I wonder what you _____

Up above the world so _____

Like a diamond in the _____.

are
star
high
sky

■ Lullabies are songs that parents sing to babies and young children at bedtime. They help children relax and go to sleep.

Choose a word to complete each line. Do you know the melody?
Can you sing it?

Rock-a-bye _____ in the treetop

When the _____ blows, the cradle will rock,

When the bough breaks, the cradle will _____

And _____ will come baby, cradle and all.

wind
fall
down
baby

■ Do you know a lullaby or a song for children?

Write the words on the lines.



Readers write about their grandmothers



My Greek grandmother

My grandmother was born in a small town in Greece. Her name was Litsa. My sisters and I called her Yia Yia.

Yia Yia was superstitious. She always told me to be careful on Tuesday the 13th. In Greece, many people believe it is an unlucky day.

She gave my sisters and me a clove of garlic to carry in our pockets. She said it would keep away evil.

My grandmother died almost 20 years ago, but I still think about her.

— Ionna Pappas

The Westcoast Reader 4/2004

I remember the smell of cherry blossoms on my grandmother's farm in Kazakhstan.

— Eduard Damrin



The Westcoast Reader 5/2002



Grandmother's kitchen smells like baking. She cuts a thick slice of bread for me. I eat it with honey.

— Jelena Mihalic

The Westcoast Reader 4/2004

Find the words

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

bread	kitchen
cherry	pocket
clove	sister
garlic	slice
grandmother	smell
honey	unlucky

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

Superstitions



In Canada, some people believe that Friday the 13th is an unlucky day.
This belief is a superstition. Do you know the superstitions below?

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.


1. It is bad luck to walk
under a _____.
2. You will have bad luck
if a _____ cat
crosses your path.
3. Knocking on _____
will protect you from bad luck.
4. Crossing your _____
will make a wish come true.

wood fingers black ladder

Do you know any superstitions?



Trinidadian family is happy in Canada

 The Haynes family came to Canada from Trinidad in 2001. They settled in Toronto first. After two years, they moved to British Columbia.

Hard to find a job

Michael and Joann Haynes say life in Canada was rough at first. It was not easy for Michael to find a job. He says, “Employers said I had good qualifications, but I had no Canadian experience. Of course, I needed a job to get Canadian experience!”

More opportunities

Michael and Joann both have jobs now. They are happy that they immigrated. Joann says there are more opportunities for their children in Canada.

Still miss Trinidad

Michael and Joann still miss Trinidad. Joann misses the beaches and the food. Her favourite food is shark fried in batter.

Michael jokes, “Trinidad is the only place in the world where sharks run away from people.”



The Westcoast Reader 6/2007 • Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Nationalities

This chart shows seven countries and the nationality of the people from each country. Fill in the blanks to complete the chart.

Country	Nationality
1. _____	Trinidadian
2. _____	Canadian
3. Japan	_____
4. Greece	_____
5. _____	Polish
6. Sweden	_____
7. _____	Mexican

Did you know?



■ Trinidad and Tobago are islands. They are off the coast of South America.

■ Tobago is much smaller than Trinidad.

■ Both islands are in the Caribbean Sea.





Some of Braim Singh Sangha's descendants got together to celebrate.

Sikh family celebrates an anniversary

 In 2006, the Sangha family celebrated its first 100 years in BC.

The family's ancestor, Braim Singh Sangha, came from India in 1906. He was one of the first Sikhs to settle in Vancouver.

Braim helped build the first Sikh temple in Canada. In 1941, he started a lumber company. He hired many Sikh immigrants. Braim died in 1973.

In 2006, 119 descendants of Braim and his wife Joginder lived in British Columbia.

Did you know?

- Sikhism began in the Punjab area of India about 500 years ago.
- Followers of Sikhism are called Sikhs.
- There are about 25 million Sikhs in the world.
- About 150,000 Sikhs live in British Columbia.

The Westcoast Reader 9/2006 • Adapted from The Vancouver Sun

True or false

Write T if the sentence is true. Write F if the sentence is false (not true).

1. Braim Singh Sangha was from Iran. _____
2. He came to Canada in 1906. _____
3. He was one of the first Muslims to settle in Vancouver. _____
4. Braim helped build one of the first Sikh temples in Canada. _____
5. Joginder was the name of Braim's wife. _____
6. Braim Singh Sangha died in 1993. _____

Vocabulary

■ An ancestor is a relative who came before you. For example, your parents or grandparents.

■ A descendant is a relative who comes after you. For example, your daughter or grandson.

Circle the correct answers.

1. Mario's _____ are from Italy.
 - a. ancestors
 - b. descendants
2. Queen Elizabeth II has eight grandchildren. They are her _____.
 - a. ancestors
 - b. descendants

Numbers

Write the correct numbers on the lines.

1. There are about _____ million Sikhs in the world.
2. Braim Singh Sangha came to British Columbia in _____.
3. Sikhism began about _____ years ago.
4. The Sangha family celebrated its first _____ years in BC in 2006.
5. There are about _____ Sikhs in British Columbia.

Family life with Baby Blues

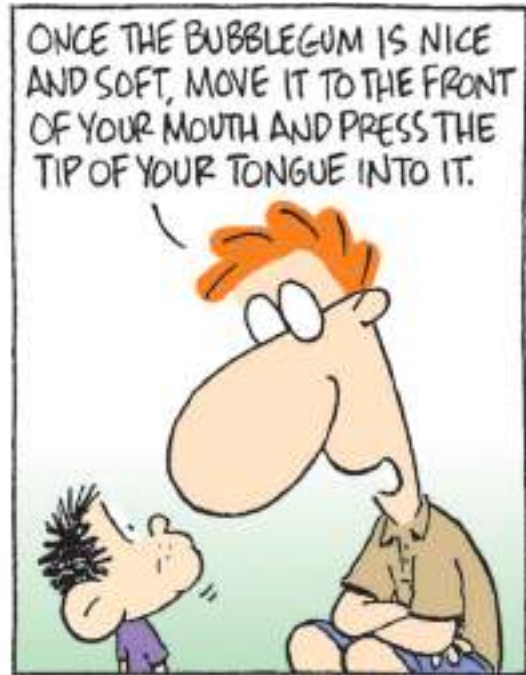


Family life with Baby Blues

1



2



3



4



Family life with Baby Blues

1



2



3



4



Family life with Baby Blues

1



2



3



Family life with Baby Blues



Family life with Baby Blues

1



2



3



4



Answers for exercises

Unscramble the words (p 6)

1. The Kooyman family has a farm.
2. The farm is near Chilliwack.
3. The Kooymans have 2,000 cows.

Baby animals (p 6)

1g 2e 3b 4a 5f 6c 7h 8d

Animal sounds (p 6)

1f 2e 3a 4g 5c 6b 7h 8d

Name quiz (p 7)

1e 2f 3a 4h 5g 6c 7b 8d

Baby names (p 8)

1. James, Jacob, Jack, Jackson
2. Hannah, Noah
3. Three
4. Evelyn, Emily
5. Mia, Ava

Alphabetical order (p 8)

Abdallah
Alejandro
Calum
Jin Hyun
João
Masato
Nduka
Tomasz

Finish the sentences (p 11)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. learn | 5. recipe, together |
| 2. children, babies | 6. walk, about |
| 3. Tell | 7. nursery |
| 4. family, traditions | |

Unscramble and match (p 11)

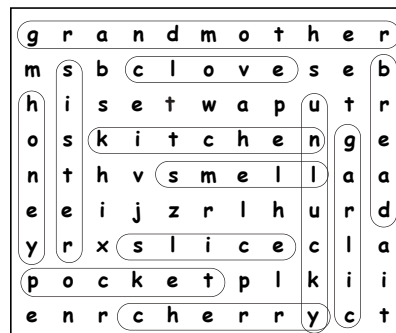
1. d—markers
2. c—tape
3. b—scissors
4. a—glue

Rhymes, songs, and lullabies (p 12)

Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky.

Rock-a-bye baby in the treetop
When the wind blows, the cradle will rock
When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
And down will come baby, cradle and all.

Find the words (p 14)



Superstitions (p 14)

1. ladder
2. black
3. wood
4. fingers

Nationalities (p 16)

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Trinidad | 4. Greek | 7. Mexico |
| 2. Canada | 5. Poland | |
| 3. Japanese | 6. Swedish | |

True or false (p 18)

1F 2T 3F 4T 5T 6F

Vocabulary (p 18)

1a 2b

Numbers (p 18)

- | | | |
|---------|--------|------------|
| 1. 25 | 3. 500 | 5. 150,000 |
| 2. 1906 | 4. 100 | |