Easy Stories: People

Joan Acosta
Contents

Welcome ............................................. 4
Susan Aglukark ................................. 5
Jonathan Cheechoo ......................... 8
Alix works at a garden centre .......... 10
Honoré has a radio show ................. 12
A family farm .................................... 14
Mei Yu is a cartoon artist ............... 16
Hannah’s pennies help .................... 19
Leo helps Sarah ................................. 22
Swedish twins are hockey players ...... 25
Joannie is an Olympic athlete ......... 27
Josh is a Paralympic athlete .......... 29
Find it ............................................. 31
Answers for exercises .................... 32
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.

**Easy Stories: People**

This e-book is a collection of stories from other e-books in this series. These stories are at the lowest reading level.

**Reading level**

Most of the e-books in this series have three reading levels. This book has only one level:

- Level 1

**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.

**To the teacher**

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

**Acknowledgements**

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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**

Front cover: Rochette, Gbedze, Yu, Sedins: The Vancouver Sun; Griffin: The Province

Page 5: Aglukark: The Vancouver Sun; sign: Sebastien Lapointe; Page 8: Iva Makarov; Page 9: Canada Post; Page 10: The Province; Pages 12, 14, 16, 19, 22, 25, 27, 29: The Vancouver Sun

**Illustrations**

Page 8, 10, 11, 12, 14 (map), 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25: Nola Johnston

Page 8: (logo) Moose Cree First Nation

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Susan Aglukark is a singer. She grew up in Nunavut. Susan sings in English and Inuktitut. She has won many awards for her music.

Did you know?
- Nunavut is a territory of Canada.
- About 80 percent of the people in Nunavut are Inuit.
- Most Inuit speak Inuktitut.

How do you say it?
- Aglukark (say: ah-GLEW-kark)
- Nunavut (say: NEW-nah-voot)
- Inuktitut (say: in-NOOK-ti-toot)
- Inuit (say: IN-you-it)
Is it a or b?

Circle the correct answers.

1. Susan Aglukark is a ___.
   a) singer
   b. nurse

2. Susan grew up in ___.
   a. Yukon
   b. Nunavut

3. Susan sings in English and ___.
   a. Portuguese
   b. Inuktitut

4. Susan has ___ many awards.
   a. won
   b. sold

5. ___ is a territory of Canada.
   a. Ontario
   b. Nunavut

6. Most people in Nunavut are ___
   a. Haida
   b. Inuit

Canada

Here is a list of Canada’s 10 provinces and three territories. Fill in the missing (capital) letters.

**Provinces**

1. Alberta
2. British Columbia
3. Manitoba
4. New Brunswick
5. Newfoundland and Labrador
6. Nova Scotia
7. Ontario
8. Prince Edward Island
9. Quebec
10. Saskatchewan

**Territories**

1. Northwest Territories
2. Nunavut
3. Yukon
Fill in the names of the missing provinces and territories.

1. N__t_w_s__
   __r_i__r__

2. r__i__h
   C__u__a

3. S__k_t__w__

4. __a__o

5. __w
   B__n__c__

6. N__a
   __t_a

7. N_w___n_l__d
   __b_d__

8. Prince Edward Island

9. Yukon

10. Manitoba

11. Quebec

12. Alberta

13. Nunavut

14. Northwest Territories

15. British Columbia

16. Saskatchewan
Jonathan Cheechoo is a hockey player. He has played for two teams in the National Hockey League (NHL).

Jonathan is from Ontario. He is from the Moose Cree First Nation.

Jonathan Cheechoo was born in Moose Factory. It is a small community on James Bay.

The weather in Moose Factory is very cold in the winter. Jonathan learned to skate on a frozen pond.
### Finish the chart

Write the singular or plural for each word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. moose</td>
<td>moose</td>
<td>8. fox</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>beavers</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. mouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>10. salmon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. bird</td>
<td></td>
<td>11. monkey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>sheep</td>
<td>12.</td>
<td>wolves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. tiger</td>
<td></td>
<td>13. cow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. goose</td>
<td></td>
<td>14. calf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Moose

- Moose live in most parts of Canada.
- In the summer, moose live near lakes and marshes. They eat water plants.
- An adult male moose is about two metres high.
- Male moose have antlers.
Alix works at a garden centre

Alix Giffin works at a garden centre. She likes her job. She says, “I am always busy.”

What does Alix do?
✓ Alix waters plants.
✓ She moves plants.
✓ She helps customers.

Alix uses these at work

pruning shears

gardening gloves

trowel

watering can

Does this plant need a lot of sun?

The Westcoast Reader 9/2005 • Adapted from The Province
Unscramble the words
Put the words in the right order to make sentences.
1. works centre garden at Alix a
   Alix works at a garden centre.
2. her Alix job likes
3. busy is always Alix

Gardening
Fill in the blanks to finish the words.

1. t r o w e l
2. _____ d _____ n
   _____ o _____
3. w _____ r _____
   _____ n
4. p _____ i _____ g
   _____ h _____ s
Honoré Gbedze is from Togo. He came to Canada in 2000.

Honoré has a radio show. It has news about Africa. It also has African music.

Honoré says, “We have lots of immigrants from Africa in Canada. They like to hear news from their homeland.”

**How do you say it?**
Honoré (say: on-oh-reh)
Gbedze (say: beh-jeh)
Togo (say: toh-goh)

**Did you know?**

- Togo is a small country on the west coast of Africa.
- The official language of Togo is French. Many people in Togo also speak one or more African languages.
- More than 34,000 immigrants from Africa live in BC. Most of these people live in the Vancouver area.
What’s the word?

Unscramble the letters and write the words on the lines.

1. Honoré Gbedze is from _____________.
   goTo

2. He came to _____________ in 2000.
   anCdaa

3. Honoré has a _________________ show.
   doair

4. The radio show has news about _________________.
   rifAca

5. The show also has African _________________.
   ucmsi

Two words in one

Match each word on the left with a word on the right. Then write the new word on the line.

1. home  ball  ________________ homeland

2. news  land  ________________

3. base  coat  ________________

4. down  room  ________________

5. rain  paper  ________________

6. bed  town  ________________
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.
Unscramble the words

Put the words in the right order to make sentences.

1. family farm Kooyman a has The

   The Kooyman family has a farm.

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 __ 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 the animals with the sounds they make.

1. cows ___ 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
Mei Yu is a cartoon artist

Mei (say: may) Yu is 20 years old. She is a cartoon artist.

Mei is also a teacher. She teaches children how to draw cartoons.

Mei was born in China. She came to Canada in 1989. She learned English quickly. “I drew pictures to remember the English words,” she says.

How did Mei learn new words? She wrote the word. Then she drew a picture.

The Westcoast Reader 1/2007 • Adapted from The Vancouver Sun
Mei teaches you how to draw a puppy

1. Start with a big head.

2. Draw the body like a jellybean.

3. Keep the legs short.


5. Draw a small nose and mouth. Make the eyes big.

6. Erase the extra lines. The puppy is finished.
**Answer the questions**

Write the answers on the lines.

1. Where is Mei Yu from?
   
   **She is from China.**

2. When did she come to Canada?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

3. Who does she teach?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

4. What kind of artist is Mei?
   
   ____________________________________________________________

**Label the puppy**

Write the correct words in the boxes.

1. **eyebrow**

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

---

tail  ear  eyebrow  leg  nose  mouth  eye
Hannah’s pennies help

Hannah Newbury is 8 years old. She collects money to help homeless people.

Canada’s penny

For many years, Canada had a one-cent coin called a penny. In 2012, the Canadian Mint stopped making pennies. Canada’s penny had two maple leaves on it.
How does Hannah help?

- Hannah collects pennies and other coins at her church.

- She puts the coins in special paper rolls.

- Hannah takes the rolls of coins to the bank. She gets bills for the coins.

- Hannah buys food with the money.

- Hannah and her mother take the food to a church in downtown Vancouver.

- People at the church use the food to make meals for homeless people.
What’s the word?

Unscramble the letters and write the words on the lines.

1. Hannah Newbury collects _______________ to help homeless people.
   yemon

2. Hannah uses the money to buy _______________.
   dofo

3. Hannah and her _______________ take the food to a church.
   rethmo

4. _______________ at the church use the food to make meals.
   eoPpel

5. The meals are for homeless people in downtown _______________.
   canVuevro

What happened first?

Put the pictures in the correct order.

Number ___

Number ___

Number ___

Number ___

Number ___

Number ___
Leo helps Sarah

Sarah Lepp is 21 years old.
She is disabled.
Sarah uses a wheelchair
to get around.

Leo is a service dog.
He lives with Sarah.
He helps Sarah in many ways.

Sarah wants to cross the street.
Leo pushes the button for the walk signal.
How does Leo help Sarah?

- Leo opens doors.
- Leo pulls a strap to open the fridge.
- Leo turns lights on and off.
- Leo brings things to Sarah.
Tell Leo what to do

Look at each picture and tell Leo what to do.

1. Turn on the lights. OR Turn off the lights.

2. ____________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________

Can you think of two other ways Leo can help Sarah? Write your answers on the lines.

1. ____________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________
Swedish twins are hockey players

Daniel and Henrik Sedin are hockey players. They play for the Vancouver Canucks.
The Sedins are twins. They are from Sweden. They came to Vancouver in 2000.

Played in the Olympics
The Sedin twins also play for Sweden. They won a gold medal at the 2006 Olympic Games.

Henrik was voted the most valuable player in the National Hockey League (NHL) in 2010.
Henrik and Daniel retired from hockey in 2018.

Sweden

Sweden is in northern Europe.
Label the hockey player

Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

1. skate
2. helmet
3. puck
4. hockey stick

Finish the sentences

Use the words in the boxes to finish the sentences.

1. Daniel and Henrik Sedin are _______hockey_______ players.
2. They play for the _________________ Canucks.
3. The Sedins are _________________.
4. They are from _________________.
5. The Sedins were 19 _________________ old in 2000.
Joannie is an Olympic athlete

Joannie Rochette is 23 years old. She is from Quebec. Joannie is a figure skater. She says, “My dream is to win a gold medal at the 2010 Olympics.”

How do you say it?
Joannie (say: zho-ann-ee)
Rochette (say: roh-shet)

Joannie won a medal
Many people will remember Joannie. Her mother died during the Olympics. Joannie was brave. She skated and won a bronze medal.

Did you know?
■ The 2010 Winter Olympics were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.
■ The 2014 Winter Olympics were in Sochi, Russia.
What’s the Olympic sport?

Match the name of the Olympic sport with the picture.

1. bobsleigh (bobsled)  ______
   
   ![Picture of bobsleigh](image)

2. speed skating ______
   
   ![Picture of speed skating](image)

3. ski jumping _____
   
   ![Picture of ski jumping](image)

4. hockey _____
   
   ![Picture of hockey](image)

5. figure skating _____
   
   ![Picture of figure skating](image)
Josh Dueck is 28 years old. He is from British Columbia.


The 2010 Paralympic Games were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.

More than 500 athletes with disabilities competed in five sports. For example:

- alpine skiing
- wheelchair curling

**Update**

- Josh won a silver medal at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.
- He won a gold medal and a silver medal at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

*The Westcoast Reader 3/2009*
What’s the Paralympic sport?

Match the name of the Paralympic sport with the picture.

1. biathlon  b

2. alpine skiing  

3. wheelchair curling  

4. ice sledge hockey  

5. cross-country skiing  

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Find it

Look through this e-book to find these pictures. Each one is part of a larger picture. Write the title of the story that goes with each one.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is it a or b? (p 6)</th>
<th>Animal sounds (p 15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a 2b 3b 4a 5b 6b</td>
<td>1f 2e 3a 4g 5c 6b 7h 8d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canada (p 6)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Answer the questions (p 18)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provinces:</strong> 1. Alberta 2. British Columbia</td>
<td>1. She is from China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Prince Edward Island 9. Quebec</td>
<td><strong>Label the puppy (p 18)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Saskatchewan</td>
<td>1. eyebrow 2. nose 3. leg 4. ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Territories:</strong> 1. Northwest Territories</td>
<td>5. eye 6. mouth 7. tail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nunavut 3. Yukon</td>
<td><strong>What’s the word? (p 21)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Map of Canada (p 7)</strong></td>
<td>1. money 2. food 3. mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Newfoundland and Labrador</td>
<td>Bottom row: 1 5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finish the chart (p 9)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tell Leo what to do (p 24)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. moose 2. beaver 3. mice 4. birds</td>
<td>1. Turn on the lights. OR Turn off the lights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. sheep 6. tigers 7. geese 8. foxes</td>
<td>2. Bring me the newspaper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unscramble the words (p 11)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Label the hockey player (p 26)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Alix works at a garden centre.</td>
<td>1. helmet 2. hockey stick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Alix likes her job.</td>
<td>3. puck 4. skate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Alix is always busy.</td>
<td><strong>Finish the sentences (p 26)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gardening (p 11)</strong></td>
<td>1. hockey 2. Vancouver 3. twins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. trowel 2. gardening gloves</td>
<td>4. Sweden 5. years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. watering can 4. pruning shears</td>
<td><strong>What’s the Olympic sport? (p 34)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What’s the word? (p 13)</strong></td>
<td>1e 2f 3c 4d 5a 6b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Togo 2. Canada 3. radio</td>
<td><strong>What’s the Paralympic sport? (p 36)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Africa 5. music</td>
<td>1b 2d 3e 4a 5e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two words in one (p 13) (possible answers)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Find it (p 34)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. homeland 2. newspaper 3. baseball</td>
<td>1. Alix works at a garden centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. downtown 4. raincoat 6. bedroom</td>
<td>2. Mei Yu is a cartoon artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unscramble the words (p 15)</strong></td>
<td>3. Leo helps Sarah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The Kooyman family has a farm.</td>
<td>4. Susan Aglukark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The farm is near Chilliwack.</td>
<td>5. A family farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Kooymans have 2,000 cows.</td>
<td>6. Jonathan Cheechoo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>