

The Reader

People, Words & Change



Adult literacy,
one-on-one.



JUNE 2025



The Reader is the quarterly newsletter of People, Words & Change. We welcome stories and articles by our learners.

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Feedback on the manner in which PWC provides its services to people with disabilities, and any other services, is encouraged and appreciated.



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News!

PWC SUMMER SCHEDULE

The PWC computer lab is closed from Monday, June 30 – Friday, July 18, 2025.

Computer Classes start again on Monday, July 21.

The computer classes held at the Merivale Y will be closed on July 17, 24 and 31. Classes start again on August 7, 2025.



PWC held its Annual General Meeting on June 18th, 2025 in-person at 404 McArthur Ave.

PWC's New Website and Video

Our website has been updated and we have a new promotional video! Check it all out here: www.pwc-ottawa.ca. The video highlights the stories of 3 of our learners and also gives an overview of what to expect when coming to PWC. Read more about our new website and our website launch event on page 3.



SAVE THE DATE!

PWC's 16th Annual Power of Words Breakfast
Monday, September 8th, 2025 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.



Learners, tutors, and literacy supporters, join us on September 8 to celebrate your successes! Several PWC learners will share their stories, there will be a special musical performance and a guest keynote speaker.

Our annual book draw will be launched that morning.

Invitations and more details coming in August!

Launch For Literacy! New Website Launch Event



June 19, 2025
www.pwc-ottawa.ca



Exciting News! PWC's new website and promotional video have launched! 🚀
On June 19, we celebrated and officially revealed the new site to our learners, tutors, board members, stakeholders, community partners, and special guests. The event was emceed by The Hon. Jim Munson. Special guests included City Councillors Jeff Leiper and Laura Dudas, who spoke kindly about the work PWC does in the Ottawa community and about the value of literacy skills.

Our new website, video, and rack card were made possible by a grant from the Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy (PGFL). Brigid Hayes and Scott Walter from the PGFL attended the event. Brigid spoke about the background and mandate of the PGFL Grant and the value of using clear language to make messaging accessible and understandable for all.



Andrew Forbes, author and literacy advocate, was the keynote speaker. He delivered a poignant and thought-provoking address about some of the current threats to literacy and, ultimately, the power that literacy plays in a person's life.

Two members, Jamie and Lisa, of the creative team from Character Creative unveiled the new site and video at the event.

PWC would like to thank all those who made the website and launch event possible: the Peter Gzowski Foundation for Literacy for the grant; The Louise Penny Foundation and Dollarama for their donations; Character Creative; Good Eats; and all the staff and volunteers who helped plan and organize the event.



Volunteer Appreciation Event



April 29, 2025



PWC held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 29. It was a fun evening featuring a performance by OrKidstra, a charitable social development program that empowers kids from equity-deserving Ottawa communities by teaching life skills through playing music and singing together. Nine performers and their conductor played a number of songs featuring violins, viola, and cello. In addition to the performance, each member introduced themselves and we learned a little bit about how they came to join OrKidstra and what they enjoyed about it. We even got to hear a friendly debate about which instrument (violin, viola, or cello) was “the best!”



Seven tutors received Certificates of Appreciation for milestone years of service:

5 Years: Wayne, Paule, Catherine

10 years: Charline, Marina, Jean

15 years: Kristen



Volunteer Appreciation Event continued...

Gifts of appreciation were donated by local Ottawa businesses. Thank you for making this event possible through your generous donations!



Thank you, PWC volunteers! We couldn't do this without you.



As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

- Audrey Hepburn



THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE LEARNER SECTIONS ARE THOSE OF INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS. THEIR CREATIONS ARE A DEMONSTRATION OF THE PROGRESS THEY HAVE MADE. PWC DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY OF THE VIEWS THAT MAY BE EXPRESSED.

Life in a Co-op

Living in a co-op can be challenging and very rewarding.

Before anyone can move in, you have to attend an information session, which will let you know most of what is required before moving in. There's a board of directors, newsletter, committees, and a yearly meeting where the committees give reports. The co-op has many advantages. However, some people move in without realising the commitment involved.

- Carole



Synonyms & Antonyms - Sentences

Our learner Natt, had fun with the Grammar Corner exercise on Synonyms & Antonyms from the March 2025 Reader.

-Smiling and laughing often will make you live longer. On the other hand, weeping your tears can make your heart feel better and lighter.

-Friends do not always last forever; they can turn into enemies.

-No matter how wealthy or poor people are, they can be generous or cruel. It depends on how they really are inside.

-Some twins may look identical, but their personalities and characters can be totally different.

-If you select an incorrect answer, you should correct it and send it back to me. I will not deduct marks.

-If you keep doing simple tasks, you will not learn and grow. Doing difficult tasks will challenge your and improve your abilities.

-Her kitchen is always spotless. She never leaves dirty dishes in the sink.

-Natt

A Good Teacher

When I think about my school years, I remember one art teacher that inspired my profound love of drawing. This story begins at Sir Winston Churchill Public School, when I was just 14 years of age. Our art teacher, who was also our math teacher, had made an announcement to the class that there would be a final assignment for the end of the school year.

For the assignment, I was asked to draw an object, thing, or place using warm and cold colors. The assignment was due in three days. At that time, I had a great fascination with big cats such as lions, tigers, cheetahs, pumas, jaguars, leopards, and panthers.

In order to complete the assignment, I had to do some research. As I was so interested in big cats, I thought that I would search online and in the library for pictures of cats. After a couple of minutes at the library, I found a tremendous number of pictures of tigers. For instance, I saw pictures of tigers at night and found that their eyes glow at night when the light shines on them. I was so inspired and chose to draw a tiger on the blank sheet for the final assignment. I split the paper into two, where I used warm colors on the right and cold colors on the left. For instance, the yellow, orange, and red were used to color the tiger and the grass in the daylight. As for the night, I used green, blue, and purple.

The result of the final assignment was astonishing and amazing for me. I had not only received a great mark, but I was also asked to hang the painting on the wall.

-Miriam
Feb. 2025

NOTE: This is not Miriam's drawing. This is an AI generated rendition of the drawing created using Canva AI.



Writing a Cover Letter for a Medical Assistance Position Job Posting

Dear Primary Care Coordinator,

I am writing to apply for the medical assistance position published on Indeed by Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre. I hold a diploma in Health Administration and have three years of medical secretarial training which was completed at the Riverbay Medical Clinic. I am dedicated and good at patient care; therefore, I believe I am well-suited for this position.

In particular, as you can see in my attached resume,

- I have completed the Diploma in Health Administration 3-year course at Algonquin College.
- I have completed Medical Administration Training which improved my skills on handling Electronic Health Record Systems and 3rd party billing as per OMR guidelines.
- I have three months' training in data entry, typing and word processing.
- I have volunteered for 1 year at the Riverside Hospital affiliated with The Ottawa Hospital.

I am an enthusiastic learner and a hardworking person. I have worked with diverse populations and have dealt with a variety of phone calls, including those from patients, medical staff, and triage calls to registered nurses. I am always compassionate towards patient care and administration. I am able to work flexible hours.

I am available for an in-person or virtual interview at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or require more details.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tilly Xyz

PWC Computer Lab Learners Create

Our computer lab learners showcase some formatting and creative skills in Word that they are learning in class.

The journey to find a job

Life is full of challenges, but few things are more frustrating than trying to find a job when nothing seems to work. I remember the days I woke up early, dressed nicely, and walked from place to place, only to hear the same words over and over: ***"we are not hiring right now"** *

I didn't give up.

Instead, I made a plan. I created a list of daily goals:

- Fix my resume
- Apply to at least 5 jobs daily
- Check emails every morning and evening
- Follow up after interview
- Stay positive no matter what

I learned that **patience**, **consistency**, and **self-belief** are more powerful than luck.

Sometimes, **rejection** felt painful. But each "no" brought me closer to a "yes." Eventually, one company gave me a chance. It was not the best job in the world, but it was **my** start. That job helped me build experience, confidence, and hope.

"Success doesn't come overnight. It comes when you keep going, even when it's hard".

Today I look back with pride. The journey was not easy, but it made me stronger.

-ASHO

May 15, 2025

PWC Computer Lab Learners Create

Neighbourhood Barbecue for Canada Day

- Beef barbecue
- Chicken sandwich
- Beef sandwich
- Hot dog
- Soft drinks
- Juice for children
- Toys for children

Canada Day is a fun, sunny and shiny day for family and friends in the neighbourhoods.



Lansdowne Park Ottawa

Saturday 01/07/25 2:00 PM

-Fadumo

PWC Learner Success Stories



Yacine

When Yacine came to PWC, she was brand new in Canada (just 3 months). Her goal was to find work as a customer service representative, so she wanted to upgrade and gain more confidence in her workplace English reading and writing skills. She started working with her tutor in June and is now happy to report that she has found full-time work as a Customer Care Advisor at Scotiabank. Here is what she said about her experience with PWC:

"I wanted to inform you that I will complete my training [with PWC], and I will be starting my new role. This news makes me very sad, but I am truly grateful for the experience. It has helped me improve my weaknesses and gain the confidence to take initiative without fear. I just wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for all your support and kindness. It truly means a lot to me."

Michael

Michael was in the process of looking for work when he registered for PWC's computer skills program. He had used technology at his previous job, but the skills were specific to that workplace and he wanted to gain more confidence in overall skills navigating the computer. In September, he got a 3-month contract that involved scanning documents, and after that contract ended, he was able to secure another contract that involved digitizing paper files. He said that having a willingness to learn and getting comfortable with computers is the first step that can lead to having that confidence in the workplace. Congratulations!



Halaleh

Halaleh participated in both our computer skills program and our tutoring program. She contacted us when her current workplace (where she had been working as a PSW) was closing and all staff were being laid off. She felt that she needed computer skills training in order to find and maintain a new job. After finishing with the computer modules (Word and Excel), she was matched with a tutor to improve and gain more confidence in her writing skills so that she could enroll in the Medical Office Administration course at Herzing. Now, a year later, she has graduated with honours from that program and is working part-time in an office, with the plan to gain a full-time position in the future. Congratulations and all the best for what comes next, Halaleh!

PWC Learner Success Stories

Ade

One of our learners, Ade, just got her Canadian Citizenship in June! Her tutor, Marcia, has been working with Ade for a number of years and attended the in-person citizenship ceremony. Ade is now a proud Canadian! We are so happy for you. Congratulations!



COMPUTER CORNER PUBLIC WIFI



What is Wi-Fi?

Wi-Fi lets your device connect to the internet without using any cords or cables. It uses invisible signals in the air to help you go online at home or in public places. You usually need a password to connect. - TechLifeUnity



Where can you find Wi-Fi? — □ ×

You can usually find Wi-Fi at

- public libraries
- community centres
- coffee shops and fast-food restaurants
- some parks or outdoor spaces

Do's and Don'ts of Public Wi-Fi — □ ×

Public Wi-Fi is helpful, but it's good to be careful.

- Don't use bank apps or websites
- Don't share personal information on public Wi-Fi.
- Do use it for things like checking the weather, reading emails, or looking up directions.



COMPUTER CORNER EMOJI GAME

A photo is worth a thousand words, but can you guess the word?



Answers on page 17



Name: _____

Date: _____

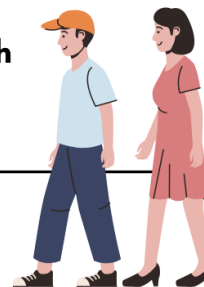
THERE / THEIR / THEY'RE

There - shows place or location. Ex. The shopping carts are over there.

Their - shows possession (possessive form for "they"). Ex. Ann and Khalid have a car. Their car is old.

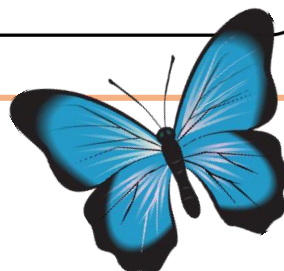
They're - contraction of "they are." Ex. These are my friends Gloria and Mike. They're married.

Directions: Fill in the blank with the correct word for each sentence.



1. I left my keys on the table over _____.
2. Let's go to _____ house to swim.
3. I want to see _____ new car.
4. Do you know what time _____ going home?
5. The park you like is right _____.
6. Can you see why _____ the best team?
7. _____ new house is bigger than the old one.
8. _____ going to visit France in the summer.
9. Go over _____ to buy the tickets to the concert.
10. I am so excited to be a part of _____ wedding!

Answers on page 17



Summer Word Search



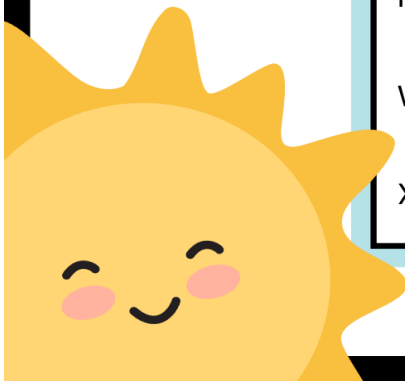
Find the words in the word search below.
Then, write sentences with those words!
The answers are on the last page.

Summer WORD SEARCH



BEES
CAMP
FUN
HOT
ICE CREAM
PARK
PLAY
RELAX
SUMMER
SUNGLASSES
SUNSHINE
SWIM
VACATION
WATER

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



Summer Reading Challenge



Summer Reading Challenge

Duration: July 1 – August 31

Goal: Read something *each week* and complete at least **5 different types of reading** from the list below.

1. Book of Your Choice

You could choose a short book with simple sentences and pictures. Great picks:

- “Penguin Readers” Level 1-8
 - “Grass Roots Press” books for adult learners
-

2. Short Newspaper Article

Find an article in a local newspaper such as *The Ottawa Citizen* or use **News in Levels** (<https://www.newsinlevels.com/>).

3. Online Blog or Post

Find a blog or post about a topic you enjoy: cooking, cars, travel, fashion, or pets! Try:

- Simple English Wikipedia

✓ Try to read 1-2 paragraphs and write down 3 new words.

4. Flyer, Menu, or Sign

Read a restaurant menu, a flyer from your mailbox, or a poster in your community.

✓ Circle words you recognize. Try to read something *new* aloud.

5. A Letter or Email

Read a letter or a short message from someone — or even write one!

✓ Bonus: Try replying to the message or writing your own short email.

6. Recipe or Instructions

Read a simple recipe or how-to guide. Try cooking or building something using the steps.

✓ Tip: Look at recipe cards with photos (AllRecipes.com has simple guides).

7. Watch with Subtitles

Watch a short video with **English subtitles**. Read along as people talk.

✓ Try: YouTube videos or shows with CC (Closed Captioning) turned on.

- **Keep a simple log: What did you read? What did you like?**
- **Tell or email your Education Counsellor (Dee, Karen, or Shaniece) to receive a Summer Reading Challenge Certificate**

Answers

COMPUTER CORNER

EMOJI GAME

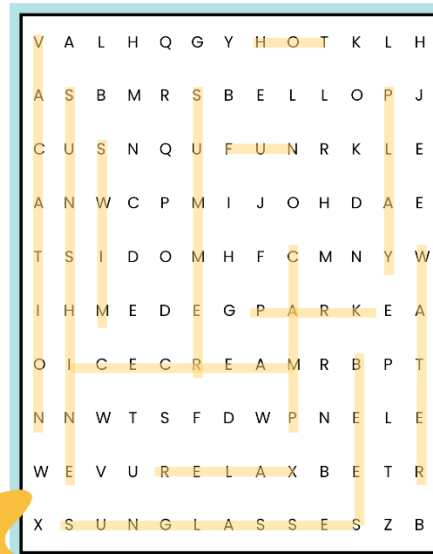
Answers



Summer WORD SEARCH



BEES
CAMP
FUN
HOT
ICE CREAM
PARK
PLAY
RELAX
SUMMER
SUNGLASSES
SUNSHINE
SWIM
VACATION
WATER



THERE / THEIR / THEY'RE

ANSWERS

1. I left my keys on the table over there.
2. Let's go to their house to swim.
3. I want to see their new car.
4. Do you know what time they're going home?
5. The park you like is right there.
6. Can you see why they're the best team?
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