

NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/01/national_handwriting_day.html

CONTENTS:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Listening / Reading Gap Fill	5
Choose the Correct Word	6
Multiple Choice	7
Spelling	8
Put the Text Back Together	9
Scrambled Sentences	10
Discussion	11
Student Survey	12
Writing	13
Homework	14

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its aim is to highlight the importance of the skill of handwriting. It is an important day in today's world where people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a lost art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They chose January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration of Independence – one of the most important documents in America's history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and power of handwriting."

Handwriting is like an art. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students 'penmanship', rather than simply 'writing'. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone's handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting say about you?

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. highlight the importance of the | a. lost art |
| 2. in today's world where people use a | b. America's history |
| 3. handwriting might become a | c. skill of handwriting |
| 4. the first person | d. of handwriting |
| 5. one of the most important documents in | e. computer keyboard |
| 6. re-explore the purity and power | f. to sign |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. We can use it to express | a. their students 'penmanship' |
| 2. Traditional teachers like to teach | b. unique |
| 3. A higher art form is | c. impossible to read |
| 4. Everyone's handwriting is | d. ourselves |
| 5. Some handwriting can be almost | e. hieroglyphics |
| 6. look like gobbledygook or ancient | f. calligraphy |

LISTENING GAP FILL

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its _____ the importance of the skill of handwriting. It is an important day _____ people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are worried _____, handwriting might become a lost art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They chose January 23rd _____ the birthday of John Hancock, who was the _____ sign the American Declaration of Independence – one of the most important documents in America's history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the _____ handwriting."

Handwriting is like an art. We can _____ ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students 'penmanship', _____ 'writing'. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone's _____. We only need to see the _____ to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions _____ gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting _____?

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its _____ is to highlight the importance of the _____ of handwriting. It is an important day in today's _____ where people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a _____ art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They _____ January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to _____ the American Declaration of Independence - one of the most important documents in America's _____. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and _____ of handwriting."

world

power

aim

sign

chose

skill

history

lost

Handwriting is like an _____. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is _____ like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students 'penmanship', rather than _____ 'writing'. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single _____ of the alphabet for many years. Everyone's handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to _____ the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to _____. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or _____ hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and _____ what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting say about you?

simply

read

almost

explain

recognize

art

ancient

letter

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its *aims / aim* is to highlight the importance of the *skill / skilled* of handwriting. It is an important day in today's world where people *used / use* a computer keyboard more *of / than* a pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a *found / lost* art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They *chose / chosen* January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration of Independence – *one / once* of the most important documents in America's history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and *power / powerful* of handwriting."

Handwriting is like an art. We can use it to *express / expression* ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a *crafty / craft*. Traditional teachers like to teach their students 'penmanship', rather than simply 'writing'. A higher art *form / forms* is calligraphy. People can study how to write a *sign / single* letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone's handwriting is *uniquely / unique*. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost *impossibly / impossible* to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even *analysis / analyze* our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting *say / said* about you?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its (1) _____ is to highlight the importance of the skill of handwriting. It is an important day in today's world where people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are (2) _____ that in the future, handwriting might become a (3) _____ art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They (4) _____ January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration of Independence - one of the most important documents (5) _____ America's history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the (6) _____ and power of handwriting."

Handwriting is like an (7) _____. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students 'penmanship', (8) _____ than simply 'writing'. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a (9) _____ letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone's handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be (10) _____ impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or (11) _____ hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting (12) _____ about you?

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) aim | (b) aiming | (c) aimed | (d) aims |
| 2. | (a) feared | (b) concern | (c) worried | (d) anxiety |
| 3. | (a) losing | (b) loser | (c) lose | (d) lost |
| 4. | (a) select | (b) chose | (c) opted | (d) made |
| 5. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) to | (d) at |
| 6. | (a) peril | (b) puerile | (c) pure | (d) purity |
| 7. | (a) artsy | (b) arty | (c) art | (d) artisan |
| 8. | (a) rather | (b) instead | (c) prefer | (d) option |
| 9. | (a) singular | (b) simple | (c) sample | (d) single |
| 10. | (a) around | (b) about | (c) almost | (d) abound |
| 11. | (a) olden | (b) history | (c) ancient | (d) high |
| 12. | (a) speak | (b) say | (c) voice | (d) talk |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the lsikl of handwriting
2. a pen or lpecin
3. handwriting igthm become a lost art
4. They ohcse January
5. important documents in America's rhotsyi
6. eoprw of handwriting

Paragraph 2

7. use it to sxrespe ourselves
8. It is almost like a ftrac
9. how to write a geilns letter
10. Everyone's handwriting is euqniu
11. zrgencioe the handwriting
12. gobbledygook or atnncei hieroglyphics

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a lost
- () form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone's
- () Handwriting is like an art. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a
- () of handwriting. It is an important day in today's world where people use a computer keyboard more than a
- () know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look
- () what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting say about you?
- () craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students 'penmanship', rather than simply 'writing'. A higher art
- () a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and power of handwriting."
- () art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They chose
- () like gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain
- () handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we
- () of Independence – one of the most important documents in America's history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is
- (**1**) National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its aim is to highlight the importance of the skill
- () January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. skill the of importance the highlight handwriting of

2. computer pen keyboard people more use than a a

3. handwriting art lost a become might

4. most documents America's the important in history

5. and power re-explore of the handwriting purity

6. to ourselves can it express We use

7. to like teachers 'penmanship' students their teach

8. write the a alphabet single how letter to of

9. almost to handwriting be impossible read can

10. handwriting your does What you about say ?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about National Handwriting Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about National Handwriting Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about National Handwriting Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about National Handwriting Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.