

# NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY

[http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/01/national\\_handwriting\\_day.html](http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/01/national_handwriting_day.html)

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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

March 20th is World Sleep Day. This day was first (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2008 by the World Association of Sleep Medicine (WASM). Its (2) \_\_\_\_\_ is to advance the health benefits of sleep worldwide. WASM wants to promote and encourage education and research (3) \_\_\_\_\_ sleep, and the importance it has as a therapy in recovering (4) \_\_\_\_\_ illnesses. Dr. William C. Dement, a WASM spokesperson, said World Sleep Day will “hopefully will be an event that is successful and will continue (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the foreseeable future. Everyone needs to understand how important sleep is, and how sleep is so important for a healthy life”. WASM’s website says “sleepiness and sleeplessness is a global epidemic that threatens health and quality of life”. It’s logo is “Sleep well, live (6) \_\_\_\_\_ awake.”

Sleep is a basic bodily and mental (7) \_\_\_\_\_. We all need to sleep, although the number of hours differs from person to person. Doctors do not know why sleep occurs, but they do all (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that it is essential for our survival. Without enough sleep, the body can die. For many of us, sleep is one of the biggest pleasures in (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Indeed, many people list sleeping as a hobby! Sleep refreshes and energizes us and restores our brain into (10) \_\_\_\_\_ working order. Sleep is also quite complicated. One-third of adults have problems sleeping and suffer (11) \_\_\_\_\_ insomnia. There are over 80 sleep-related disorders. Other people are lucky and have no problems at all getting off to sleep. Some people sleep as soon as their head (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the pillow. Do you sleep well?

### Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |               |             |               |                 |
|-----|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) hold      | (b) holds   | (c) holding   | (d) held        |
| 2.  | (a) sight     | (b) aim     | (c) bulls eye | (d) prey        |
| 3.  | (a) onto      | (b) into    | (c) unto      | (d) to          |
| 4.  | (a) on        | (b) for     | (c) from      | (d) by          |
| 5.  | (a) in        | (b) on      | (c) at        | (d) so          |
| 6.  | (a) filled    | (b) filling | (c) full up   | (d) fully       |
| 7.  | (a) need      | (b) needs   | (c) necessary | (d) necessitate |
| 8.  | (a) agreement | (b) agrees  | (c) agree     | (d) agreed      |
| 9.  | (a) lives     | (b) lively  | (c) life      | (d) lifetime    |
| 10. | (a) bottom    | (b) side    | (c) front     | (d) top         |
| 11. | (a) by        | (b) from    | (c) for       | (d) at          |
| 12. | (a) hits      | (b) sinks   | (c) makes     | (d) dribbles    |

## 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.