
PRINT & GO ESL

Reading Worksheets



Book
4

Short Stories for Adult Students – Beginning Level

ESL Printable
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Introduction and Teaching Tips

Print & Go ESL Reading Worksheets, Book 4 contains a collection of ten reproducible and printable worksheets for ESL students and teachers. The stories are designed for adults who want to learn English. Worksheet subjects include life skills like balancing a family and job, parenting, and being on time.

Worksheet Features

- Free
- Fast download
- Black line pictures that copy well
- No usernames or passwords
- Stories for adults, not children
- Clear subject/verb/object sentence structures
- Repetitive exercises to guarantee student success
- Four skill areas: reading, true/false, forming opinions, writing

Teaching Tips

- Preview the story by asking questions about the pictures.
- Pair students and have them read the stories aloud to each other.
- Conduct class surveys by tallying yes/no answers to Exercise C.
- Have students stand and share their written responses to Exercise D.
- Assign higher level students the task of writing a second paragraph for each of the stories.
- Assign the worksheets as homework.
- Use the worksheets to supplement distance learning classes.

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OCTAVIUS IS A BARBER



A. Reading

Octavius is a barber. He washes, cuts, and styles men's hair. He has many customers, and they are always happy with their haircuts. If a customer wants short hair, Octavius cuts his customer's hair short. If a customer wants long hair, Octavius trims his customer's hair just a little. If a customer wants his gray hair dyed black, Octavius dyes the customer's hair black. If a customer wants a bald head, Octavius shaves his customer's head until it's bald.

Recently, a new hairstyle has become popular. Many of the men in town are growing their hair long and braiding it. Octavius hopes this fad ends soon.

B. True or False

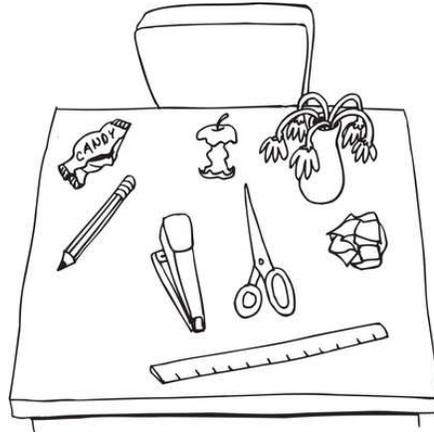
1. _____ Octavius is a barber.
2. _____ His customers all like the same hairstyle.
3. _____ Some of Octavius's customers get their heads shaved bald.
4. _____ The bald customers get their hair dyed black.
5. _____ Octavius doesn't like the new fad.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Men look good with long braids.
2. _____ People with white hair look wise.

D. Writing – Why are Octavius's customers happy with his work?

MESSY DESK



A. Reading

Charlene's desk is messy because she left work in a hurry. Her husband called and said his car broke down on a busy highway. Charlene went to pick him up, but she forgot to clean her desk before she left work.

Some items on Charlene's desk should be thrown in the trash: the empty candy wrapper, the apple core, the wilted flowers, and the piece of crinkled paper. Other items should be arranged neatly or put inside a drawer: the pencil, the stapler, the pair of scissors, and the ruler.

B. True or False

1. _____ Charlene's husband called her when she was at work.
2. _____ Charlene forgot to clean her desk before she left work.
3. _____ The flowers in the vase are wilted.
4. _____ The apple core should be put inside a desk drawer.
5. _____ The stapler and the ruler should be thrown in the trash.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ I am the neatest person in my household.
2. _____ Messy people are lazy.

D. Writing – How do you feel after you have cleaned your house or car? Why?

FAMILY DOG



A. Reading

The Bowen family has a new dog. They bought their dog from a nearby dog pound. The dog pound charged \$225 for the dog, but it has all its shots and it is fixed. The pound gave them a free dog collar with a blank name tag and a leash.

Mrs. Bowen took the kids to the pound to pick out the dog. They spent an hour playing with the dogs at the pound during “playtime”. The kids selected this dog because it is friendly and sweet. They named it Lady. Lady is a good dog. She likes people and other dogs. There is only one problem: When Lady is outside, she chases cars. She hasn’t caught one yet, but the Bowens will have to train Lady to not chase cars!

B. True or False

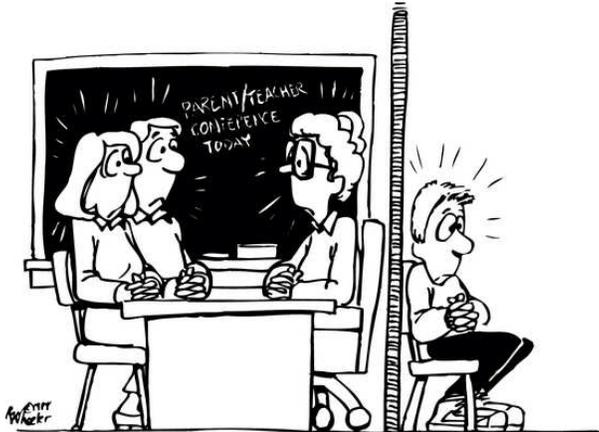
1. _____ Dog pounds sell dogs.
2. _____ Lady is *fixed*. This means that she cannot have children.
3. _____ Mr. Bowen went with the family to select a dog.
4. _____ When she is in the house, Lady chases cars.
5. _____ The Bowen’s paid \$225 for a dog collar, name tag, and leash.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Two hundred and twenty-five dollars is a lot of money for a dog.
2. _____ Owning a pet is wrong. Animals should remain free and wild.

D. Writing – Would you rather own a cat or a dog? Why?

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE



A. Reading

Oh, no! It is parent-teacher night at Sunnyside Elementary School. Ronald is worried because his parents are talking to his teacher. His teacher's name is Mrs. Belasco, and she is very strict. Mrs. Belasco gives the students a lot of homework, even on weekends and holidays. She never lets students talk to each other during class, and if they slump in their chairs, she makes them sit up straight.

Ronald's parents are upset. Mrs. Belasco just told them that Ronald is a bad student. His homework is sloppy and sometimes he doesn't do it at all.

B. True or False

1. _____ Ronald attends Sunnyside Elementary School.
2. _____ Mrs. Belasco doesn't give homework on holidays.
3. _____ Ronald is worried because he knows his teacher will say good things.
4. _____ Students in Mrs. Belasco's class should sit up straight.
5. _____ Ronald always completes his homework.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Teachers should be strict and give lots of homework.
2. _____ Teachers shouldn't give homework on holidays.

D. Writing – What is your favorite school subject? Why do you like it?

A BUSY LIFE



A. Reading

Virginia is married, and she has eight children. Her youngest child is three and her oldest child is nineteen. She also works full-time as a bank manager. Virginia is busy every minute of the day. It is difficult for her to balance so many duties.

Luckily, Virginia's husband helps her manage the kids and the household chores. Because the family is so large, everyone has a list of daily chores they must complete. Sometimes the older children complain because they want to be paid for doing chores. Sometimes the younger children complain because they want more time to play and watch TV. Even the three-year old complains when he has to pick up his toys.

B. True or False

1. _____ Virginia has a dozen children.
2. _____ Her youngest child is three years old.
3. _____ Virginia is a wife, mother, and employee.
4. _____ The youngest child wants to be paid for picking up his toys.
5. _____ Virginia's husband helps her.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ It is good for children to have daily chores.
2. _____ Parents should not pay their children for doing household chores.

D. Writing – What did you complain about when you were a kid? Why?

DRIVING TO WORK



A. Reading

Ralph drives to work and back every weekday. On his way to work, the freeways are usually crowded and traffic is often backed up. Things are even worse in the afternoon when he drives home. Traffic comes to a standstill whenever there is an accident or a car stalls and blocks a lane. Multi-car pileups with injuries can take emergency workers and vehicles several hours to clear.

When he is stuck in heavy traffic, Ralph listens to music on the radio to calm his nerves. His boss and his wife know that if he's late, he's probably stuck in traffic.

B. True or False

1. _____ Ralph drives to work and back on the weekend.
2. _____ The freeways are busy when he goes to work in the morning.
3. _____ Multi-car pileups with injuries can require hours to clear.
4. _____ Ralph's boss knows that if he's late he's probably stuck in traffic.
5. _____ Listening to music helps Ralph relax.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Drivers should not use cell phones when they are driving.
2. _____ My government should build more roads and freeways.

D. Writing – Does your country need more roads or less roads? Explain.

HAPPY BACHELOR



A. Reading

Steve is a bachelor. That means that he isn't married. Last week he turned twenty-seven years old, and he started thinking about marriage. But he's not sure he wants to change his life because he is happy now. His life is simple, and that's the way he likes it.

The problem is that he doesn't have any children. He loves his girlfriend, and they have been dating for about three years. His girlfriend is a good person and she would be a good mother, but marriage is difficult. Most of Steve's friends are already divorced.

B. True or False

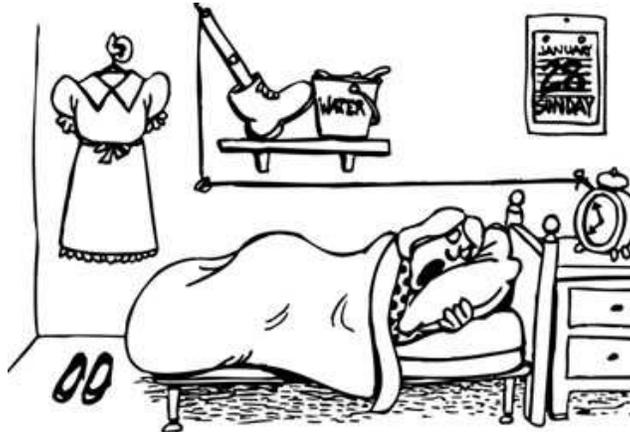
1. _____ Steve isn't married.
2. _____ He is twenty-eight years old.
3. _____ Steve is happy and his life is simple.
4. _____ His girlfriend is a good person, but she wouldn't be a good mother.
5. _____ Most of Steve's friends are divorced.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Steve should get married to his girlfriend.
2. _____ Most divorces are caused by men who cheat on their wives.

D. Writing – What qualities should a good spouse have?

LATE FOR BREAKFAST



A. Reading

It's Sunday morning, and Adrienne is still in bed. She was supposed to meet her friends for breakfast, but she stayed up until midnight and now she is too tired to get out of bed. She was reading a good book last night and couldn't put it down. Every page of the book was interesting, and she wanted to find out what happened on the next page.

Before Adrienne went to bed last night, she set her alarm clock for 7:00 and picked out the clothes she was going to wear the next day. But when the alarm clock rang in the morning, she reached over, turned it off, and went back to sleep. If she is lucky, her friends will call her and wake her up.

B. True or False

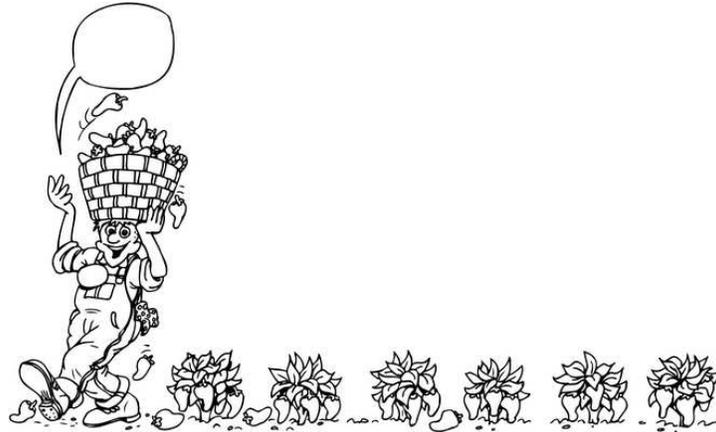
1. _____ It's Sunday, January, 28. (Hint: Look at the wall calendar.)
2. _____ Adrienne is tired because she stayed up late Saturday night.
3. _____ The book Adrienne read was boring.
4. _____ Adrienne isn't going to breakfast because she is reading a good book.
5. _____ Someone snuck into her room and turn off the alarm clock.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Reading is fun.
2. _____ It's important to be on time.

D. Writing – Are you usually early, on time, or late for appointments?

PEPPER PICKERS



A. Reading

Pedro picks peppers. He is a pepper picker from Peru. After he picks the peppers off the plants, he throws them in a plastic basket. Pedro's parents are also pepper pickers. When they pick peppers they put them in their pockets. People come from many places to see the pepper pickers picking peppers.

After Pedro and his parents pick the peppers, they pickle them until they turn pink and purple. When they are pink and purple, Pedro's parents put them in pints of pineapple pudding and paste labels on the pints. After the paste dries, they peddle the pints of pineapple pepper pudding to people who plan parties.

B. True or False

1. _____ Pedro and his parents pick peppers.
2. _____ Peppers grow on pepper plants.
3. _____ Pedro's parents put the peppers they pick in plastic bags.
4. _____ Pedro's parents peddle pints of pineapple pepper pudding.
5. _____ Pedro is from Peoria.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Trying new foods is fun.
2. _____ Pineapple pepper pudding probably tastes delicious!

D. Writing – What spicy foods do you like?

BIG TEST



A. Reading

Rebecca is taking a test today. It is a two-question essay test, so she has to write sentences and paragraphs. She studied for the test and is well prepared, but she feels nervous. She wants to get an A on the test, but she isn't a very good writer.

The teacher gave the students some advice before he passed out the test. He warned them to read the questions carefully. He suggested that they read each question two or more times. He also told the students to keep their eyes on their own paper and not look at their neighbor's answers. The last thing he said was, "Relax! Don't be nervous!"

B. True or False

1. _____ There are two questions on the essay test.
2. _____ When students take an essay test, they have to write paragraphs.
3. _____ Rebecca is a good writer.
4. _____ The teacher told the class to be nervous because the test is difficult.
5. _____ Students should copy their classmate's answers.

C. Yes or No – Share Your Opinion

1. _____ Essay tests are easier than multiple choice tests.
2. _____ It is difficult to write paragraphs in English.

D. Writing – Write three helpful tips students should obey to perform well on tests.

Answer Key – True/False

1. Octavius is a Barber - p. 4
1. *true* 2. *false* 3. *true* 4. *false* 5. *true*
2. Messy Desk - p. 5
1. *true* 2. *true* 3. *true* 4. *false* 5. *false*
3. Family Dog - p. 6
1. *true* 2. *true* 3. *false* 4. *false* 5. *false*
4. Parent Teacher Conference - p. 7
1. *true* 2. *false* 3. *false* 4. *true* 5. *false*
5. A Busy Life - p. 8
1. *false* 2. *true* 3. *true* 4. *false* 5. *true*
6. Driving to Work - p. 9
1. *false* 2. *true* 3. *true* 4. *true* 5. *true*
7. Happy Bachelor - p. 10
1. *true* 2. *false* 3. *true* 4. *false* 5. *true*
8. Late for Breakfast - p. 11
1. *true* 2. *true* 3. *false* 4. *false* 5. *false*
9. Pepper Pickers - p. 12
1. *true* 2. *true* 3. *false* 4. *true* 5. *false*
10. Big Test - p. 13
1. *true* 2. *true* 3. *false* 4. *false* 5. *false*

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