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Your business is local. Your customers are local.

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At Easy Reader, we believe communities thrive when neighbours support neighbours. That's why our publication is dedicated to showcasing the businesses that shape our streets, shops, and shared stories. Reach engaged local readers who want to shop close to home — and want to discover you.

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## OUCH!

A tough old cowboy from Alberta counseled his granddaughter that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gun powder on her oatmeal every morning. The granddaughter did this religiously until the age of 103, when she died. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren, and a 40-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

## SIGN OF THE TIMES

Two crows were in a field when they noticed a figure that looked like a man in the distance. "See that over there? What is that?", says the first crow. The second crow takes a long look, "That's a scarecrow. Looks authentic, doesn't it." "How can you tell it's a scarecrow and not a person?", replies the first crow. "Look at its hand. No cellphone", says the second crow.

## SWINDLED

A guy asks a lawyer about his fees. "I charge \$50 for three questions", the lawyer says. "That's awfully steep, isn't it?", the guy asks. "Yes, I suppose so", the lawyer replies. "Now what's your final question?"



## TEAM CANADA: AIMING HIGH AT MILANO CORTINA 2026

With the 2026 Winter Olympics set for February 6–22 in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Team Canada is shaping up as one of the most exciting and deep contingents in this year's Games. From powerhouse hockey teams to seasoned skaters and winter sport specialists, Canada enters with a blend of elite talent and Olympic experience.

**Women's Ice Hockey** is one of Canada's signature Olympic programs. The Canadian women have never missed the podium since the sport's Olympic debut in 1998 and are perennial favourites for gold.

**Men's Ice Hockey: NHL Stars Return** On the men's side, Canada's Olympic hockey roster is stacked with NHL talent — marking the return of NHL participation in the Olympics for the first time since 2014. Big names like Connor McDavid, Sidney Crosby, and Cale Makar highlight a squad built for gold.

**Ice Sports & More** Beyond hockey, Canada boasts strong contenders in figure skating, including seasoned competitors and fresh Olympians ready to shine on the world stage. Across disciplines — from curling and speed skating to skiing and sliding sports — the country fields athletes with podium potential.

As the world gathers in Italy, Team Canada combines tradition and talent with the drive to compete at the very top — especially in women's ice hockey, where history and heart meet Olympic gold ambitions.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the largest planet in our solar system?
2. What is the largest internal organ in the human body?
3. What country will be hosting the 2026 Olympic Winter Games?
4. Which animal is known for having the longest lifespan?
5. What is the capital city of Australia?
6. Which famous artist cut off part of his own ear?
7. What is the fastest land animal?
8. Which continent is the Sahara Desert located on?
9. What is the smallest prime number?
10. Which movie features the quote, "I'll be back"?

Answers on back page

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The look you have when discussing a job with someone who you have to act nice because they're trying to help you.

### SAY WHAT?

Once there lived a happy couple who had been together for decades. But after spending years together, the husband was concerned that his wife was not hearing as well as she used to hear. He thought that she might need a hearing aid but he wasn't sure how to approach her.

He called his family doctor and asked for suggestions. The doctor told him to test it with a simple idea. The doctor said, "Stand 40 feet away from her and speak as loud as you would speak to her in a normal conversation. Observe if she hears you. If not, reduce the distance into 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response. The distance will help us to estimate her requirements for the hearing aid."

The next day, the husband saw his wife cooking dinner in the kitchen. So he took the opportunity to check the doctor's idea. He got 40 feet away from his wife and asked, "dear what is there for dinner?" He waited for a response but did not get one.

He moved a bit closer and asked "dear, what is there for dinner?". He still did not get any response from his wife.

He then stood twenty feet away from his wife and asked the same question, hoping he would get a response this time. But the wife did not respond.

He then stood just ten feet away from his wife and asked "Dear, What is there for dinner?" He did not get any response.

By now the husband was very concerned and felt pity about how bad his wife's hearing is.

Then he walked right behind her and said, "Honey, what is there for dinner." The wife shouted, "John, This is the the fifth time I'm saying, CHICKEN...!"

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

You are not responsible for your first thought, but you are for your second thought. *Raquel Smith*

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ANSWERS

1. Jupiter
2. The liver
3. Italy
4. The bowhead whale
5. Canberra
6. Vincent van Gogh
7. Cheetah
8. Africa
9. 2
10. The Terminator

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