

# 25 Ideas

## to Use Your Literacy and Essential Skills Every Day

We need to use literacy and essential skills every day to keep them in shape. We can do that at home, at work and in our community. We've compiled 25 ways you could exercise your literacy and essential skills.

### ► What other ways do you keep your skills sharp?

1. Have fun keeping your mind in shape!
2. Learn about brain energizers. Find a partner and do them together.
3. Teach someone a skill that you have.
4. Write notes with pen and paper instead of typing.
5. Read a newspaper.
6. Fill out a form.
7. Ask for directions or get help reading a map.
8. Write a letter.
9. Share stories about your day.
10. Practice words in a new language.
11. Learn a musical instrument.
12. Write a poem for a friend or family member on a special occasion.
13. Add up and compare your monthly housing expenses including rent or mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, maintenance and utilities.

14. Calculate your retirement income from Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, your savings and private pension, if you have one.
15. Figure out the area of your house or a room you want to get new flooring for.
16. Google ‘must read books’ for a search that shows a list of books everyone should read. Choose one or two of those books to read.
17. Spend an hour at the library exploring new magazines and books.
18. Find information on the Internet about how to create or fix something around your home.
19. Keep a list of community issues that concern you on your bulletin board. Refer to it when election time comes around.
20. Explore the Internet until you learn how to do something new on the computer, such as print wirelessly from your iPad, digitize an old photo, or audio record an email message.
21. Volunteer for a community project to work with others.
22. Do crossword puzzles.
23. Play Scrabble with your family and friends.
24. Write in a journal.
25. Type favourite recipes and make a family recipe book.