

## **Interpreting a Calendar** **(60 to 90-minute class lesson)**

### **CASAS Competencies:**

- CASAS Scale Levels: 181 – 200
- 2.3.2-2 Identify and interpret a calendar

### **Outcomes:**

- Learners will be able to identify names of the months and the days of the week.
- Learners will be able to identify how many days are in a particular month.
- Learners will get a brief introduction to cardinal and ordinal numbers.

### **Teacher Preparation and Materials:**

- Overhead transparency and class copies of a yearly calendar – one for 2008 is included in the lesson, Handout 1
- A yearly calendar cut up into 12 month pieces – Depending on the class size, teacher should have 12 months or 24 months ready. Handout 1 can be cut up if a larger calendar is not available to you.
- Overhead Projector
- Class copies of Worksheet 1: Pair Practice
- Class copies of Worksheet 2: Assessment
- Colored pencils, markers or crayons

## ***Why?***

### **Introduction/Warm-up:**

As learners walk into class, give each learner a month.

Ask the class what is on the piece of paper? Can they identify it as a monthly calendar? How do they know it's a part of a calendar?

Discuss why it is important that we know and understand how to use a calendar. Possible answers may be to remember the date of an appointment, holidays, birthdays, etc.

## ***What?***

### **Presentation:**

Teach/Review calendar vocabulary. Ask various learners to tell the month and day of their birthday, anniversary or other important days. Say the months of the year and days of the week together.

## **Do!**

Have students make a 12-month calendar by using their month puzzle pieces. If there isn't an even number of learners, learners can have more than one month. Once the yearly calendar is complete, give learners a copy of the yearly calendar on Handout 1. With the calendar handout, learners will identify the number of days in a month and be able to use ordinal numbers for dates.

### **Controlled Practice:**

Ask the class to provide the names of the months and days of the week in order. Teacher should write them on the board and learners speak. Afterwards, go over the pronunciation with the class.

Teacher asks some of the following questions.

*What month is the first month of the year (2008)?*

*What month is the last month of the year (2008)?*

*What month is the third month of the year?*

*What month is the eleventh month of the year?*

*Etc.*

After randomly asking some of the questions above, go over ordinal numbers. There are two kinds of number systems we use. Ordinal numbers are numbers used to express order such as first, second, third, etc. We use cardinal numbers when counting such as one, two, three, etc. Teacher should write this information on the board.

Teacher asks a couple of more questions like those above and then calls on or takes volunteers to ask similar questions as practiced.

Ordinal numbers are also used when speaking of dates. When written, we use cardinal numbers but in dialogue, ordinal numbers should be used. Practice asking questions about dates and have learners answer using ordinal numbers. Stress the /th/ sounds.

*First, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, etc.*

*First and Last*

Each learner should have a colored crayon or pencil to identify answers to teacher's questions.

Ask several learners their birthdays. Make sure learners are using ordinal numbers when saying the date. i.e. "My birthday is June first" not June one.

The rest of the class listens carefully and circles the birthday of the learner on the calendar using crayons or colored pencils. The teacher can ask the birthday of another learner to check if the rest of the class is on task and listening.

**Pair/Group Practice:**

Question and Answer pair practice using *Worksheet 1*. Learners who finish ahead can then work on writing the answer in complete sentences.

For more practice, have learners stand in 2 circles (one inner and one outer). After about 5 minutes, have learners rotate partners by having one of the circles move clockwise or counter clockwise by 1 or 2 people.

**So What?**

**Assessment:**

Use *Worksheet 2* to assess student understanding. Students circle one answer – A, B, C or D. Correct answers: 1/A, 2/D, 3/B, 4/D, 5/C, 6/D

If there is access to computers, a great website to practice calendar reading is at <http://www.quia.com/cz/72162.html>. This website goes beyond material covered in this lesson, so the teacher should decide whether or not it may be appropriate.

Discussion Questions: So what can we do with the information reviewed and/or learned? Why do you need to know how to read a calendar?

- Performing better on the CASAS Math test
- Keeping track of appointments
- Remembering special days and events
- Knowing when one gets paid

## Calendar for 2008 (United States)

### January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

8:● 15:○ 22:○ 30:○

### February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

6:● 13:○ 20:○ 28:○

### March

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

7:● 14:○ 21:○ 29:○

### April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

5:● 12:○ 20:○ 28:○

### May

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

5:● 11:○ 19:○ 27:○

### June

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

3:● 10:○ 18:○ 26:○

### July

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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### August

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1:● 8:○ 16:○ 23:○ 30:●

### September

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

7:○ 15:○ 22:○ 29:●

### October

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

7:○ 14:○ 21:○ 28:●

### November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

5:○ 13:○ 19:○ 27:●

### December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

5:○ 12:○ 19:○ 27:●

Calendar generated on [www.timeanddate.com/calendar](http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar)

## Worksheet 1: Pair Practice Questions

Take turns asking and answering the following questions. You may use your calendar handout to answer some questions.

Please answer in complete sentences. Try not to use short one-word answers.

1. What is today's date? Today's date is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What day of the week is it today?
3. How many months are in a year?
4. How many weeks are in a year?
5. How many days are in a year?
6. How many days are in a week?
7. What month comes before February?
8. What month comes after August?
9. When is your birthday?
10. How many days are in March
11. How many days are in April?
12. How many days are in November?
13. How many days are in December?
14. How many days are in February?
15. What month has the **least** number of days?

### Worksheet 2: Assessment

October 2008						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2008						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2008						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- What month comes before November?
  - October
  - November
  - December
  - I don't know.
- How do you say the last day of October?
  - Ten thirty one
  - Ten thirty one
  - October thirty-one
  - October thirty-first
- What day of the week is November 25?
  - Monday
  - Tuesday
  - Thursday
  - Saturday
- How many days are in October?
  - 27
  - 29
  - 30
  - 31
- How many days are in November?
  - 27
  - 29
  - 30
  - 31
- How many days are in December?
  - 27
  - 29
  - 30
  - 31