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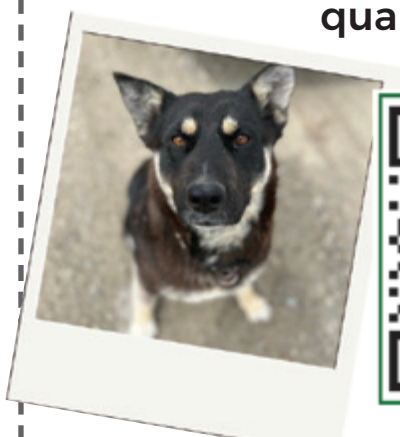




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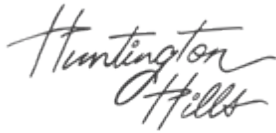


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## Winter Salad with Green Dressing

by Jennifer Puri



Cranberries are rarely eaten raw due to their acidic and sour taste. They are typically consumed dried, in a juice, sauce, or as supplements. Dried cranberries are typically sweetened with sugar or a sugar alternative.

Related to blueberries, bilberries, and lingonberries, cranberries are a rich source of plant compounds and antioxidants which include flavonoids and polyphenols. These help in keeping blood vessels healthy and cranberries' vitamin C and calcium content assist in maintaining strong bones.

There are a multitude of ways to enjoy cranberries as they can be added to muffins, tarts, breads, stuffing, smoothies, spritzers, sangria, or a salad as shown in the winter salad with green dressing recipe below.

**Prep Time:** 25 minutes

**Cook Time:** 35 minutes

**Servings:** 4

### Ingredients:

- 1 small butternut squash
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. coarsely ground salt
- 1 tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 small can sliced pears or peaches, drained
- 1 small can beets drained, rinsed, and cut in halves
- 6 cups arugula or baby spinach leaves
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup dried cranberries

### Dressing:

- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 1 cup Greek yoghurt
- 1 cup of fresh coriander and parsley leaves
- 2 tbsp. honey
- 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
- Juice of half a lemon
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- ½ tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
- ¾ tsp. salt or to taste

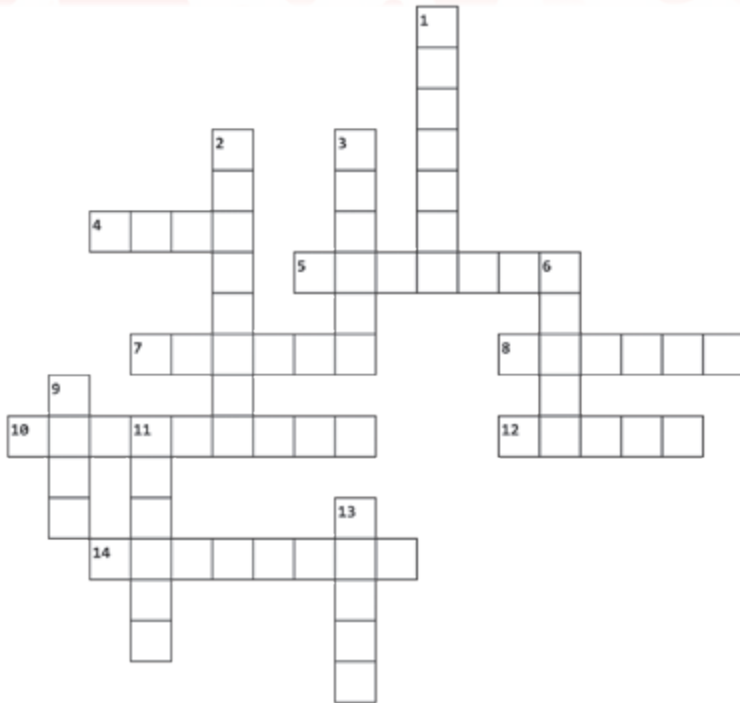
### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Slice butternut squash into 1-inch-thick pieces and remove seeds, pith, and skin.
- Place squash pieces in a bowl and toss with olive oil, salt, and pepper.
- Line a baking tray with foil and place the squash pieces on it. Bake on middle rack of oven for approximately 30 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool and then cut into bite size pieces.
- In a blender place the garlic, green onion, yoghurt, honey, mayonnaise, parsley, coriander, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Pulse until smooth and then slowly add the olive oil and pulse for a few more seconds.
- Place arugula or spinach leaves in a large salad bowl. Arrange the squash pieces, beets, pear or peach slices around the edges of the bowl and the walnuts and cranberries in the center.
- Serve with green dressing and crusty, sourdough, or ciabatta bread.

Bon Appétit!



# February Crossword



## Across

- Canadian filmmaker, Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi adventure film \_\_\_\_\_: *Part Two* first premiered in February 2024.
- Fleetwood Mac's best-selling album, \_\_\_\_\_, was released on February 4, 1977, featuring songs such as "Dreams" and "Go Your Own Way".
- Born on February 1, 1994, England-born pop sensation, Harry \_\_\_\_\_ rose to fame as part of a boy band before going off on his own.
- On February 21, 1948, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, best-known as \_\_\_\_\_, was founded.
- Something that is typically given to a significant other or friend(s) during the month of February.
- February is National \_\_\_\_\_ Month, highlighting the importance of cardiovascular health.
- Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Joni \_\_\_\_\_, was inducted into Canada's Juno Hall of Fame on February 5, 1981.

## Down

- In February of 1917, this famous Spanish artist, best known for Cubism made his first trip to Italy.
- February's purple birthstone, the \_\_\_\_\_ is believed to be a symbol of protection.
- The Grammy Award-winning song "No \_\_\_\_\_" by TLC was released on February 2, 1999.
- 2025's Chinese Zodiac is this slippery, slithery creature.
- Angie Thomas' young adult bestseller, *The \_\_\_\_\_ U Give* was originally published on February 28, 2017.
- Canadian actor, \_\_\_\_\_ Page, was born on February 21, 1987, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ History Month was made official by U.S. President Gerald Ford in 1976 and is observed every February.



# Cats, Canines, & Critters of Calgary



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Tucker and Bentley, *McKenzie Towne*

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# Photo Gallery by Khoa Nguyen



# Getting Active in the New Year

by Alberta Health Services

The New Year is a perfect opportunity to embrace healthier habits and prioritize well-being. You can start today.

Start by finding activities you enjoy, whether it's jogging, swimming, lifting weights, or joining a fitness class. Make movement a regular part of your routine. Although adding more activity to your life may seem overwhelming, it helps to start small. Make one lifestyle change that helps you move more regularly at an effort level that matches your current condition.

### One Step at a Time

Walking is a great way to be active. For most people, walking is a safe activity, and it helps make the bones stronger and keep the joints healthy. It can make you feel less tired and can put you in a good mood. To help get into the habit of walking, try wearing a pedometer for a day or even a week. At the start, you might be surprised to see how few steps you take each day. To boost your daily step count, make simple changes in your daily routines like:

- Park a few blocks away from work and walk.
- Take the stairs instead of escalators or elevators.
- Walk in your neighbourhood before or after supper. Start with short walks and slowly increase the distance. Set new goals when you're ready.
- Invite a friend or family member to join. You may find you can walk longer when you walk with another person.

Remember, some activity is better than none. The more you do, the better. Finding activities you enjoy and that are practical is an important first step to becoming active.

### Get Outside!

Spending more time being active outdoors offers many benefits like boosting your mental health, increasing energy, or lowering your risk of diabetes, heart disease, and some types of cancer. Although Alberta winters can be difficult because of the shorter days, cold weather, and snow and ice, there are many reasons to still get outside. Check out hard-to-reach places on snowshoes or skis or go skating outside. Being outdoors more can also make you feel good about your community.

### It Doesn't Have to Be Hard

Most people who dance, swim, play tennis, or go hiking do these activities because they enjoy them. Having fun is good for your health. Taking part in an activity that you enjoy will help you relax and help lower your stress. It will help you feel good about yourself, which is good for your mental health. Physical activity doesn't have to be hard to be good for your body. If you don't like going to a gym, do something outside or walk in a mall.

**What activity appeals to you?** Try to find an activity you enjoy doing by yourself or with others. If you like what you're doing, you'll probably keep doing it. Find out about activities in your community to try new things and learn new skills.

**Physical activity can help you live better as you grow older.** Staying active will help you reach, bend, lift, carry, and move around easier, so you can keep doing things you like to do. The more you sit or lie around, the stiffer your joints get. Stretching and strength exercises will keep your muscles and joints moving and help stop falls and injuries.

**Being active is safe for most people.** Start slowly and work your way up. If you aren't sure about how much activity you can do, talk to your healthcare provider.

**Physical activity doesn't need to be dull or boring.** Do activities you enjoy more often. You may be surprised how quickly you start to feel stronger and like you have more energy.



# The Art of Finding Work: Job Search Success Is Not Complicated

by Nick Kossovan

Most people over-complicate the process of achieving success.

Achieving success is often perceived as a complex puzzle, or according to those who play the 'I'm a victim!' card, only available to those who are supposedly privileged. The fact is there's a simple equation for achieving success, which Zig Ziglar famously encapsulated, "You can have everything in life you want if you will just help other people get what they want."

Side note: "all you want" should be interpreted as "all you need."

I recommend considering the hiring process from the employer's perspective. By doing so, you'll empathize with employers and understand that positioning yourself as a candidate who has the skills, experience, and proven track record of helping employers get what they want is a job search strategy that'll set you apart from your competition, who aren't approaching their job search with an "I want to help employers" mindset as they have the all-too-common "I want!" mindset.

Success isn't a complicated journey. With the right mindset, it's a simple path—help others achieve what they want. However, the mindset I come across most often is the exact opposite; job seekers focused on what they want, as opposed to what employers want, resulting in employers being turned off. Who isn't turned off by someone solely concerned with their needs and wants, who comes across as "predatory"?

Most job seekers: "Employers need to understand my issues and needs."

Savvy job seekers: "I need to understand the employer's issues and needs."

Job seekers who are thinking clear and show employers how they can help them achieve what they want are few and far between. Being that rare candidate makes

you unique and highly valuable, which is a significant competitive advantage. I can guarantee that your interviewer almost never encounters a candidate who projects an "I'm here to help you" aura.

When viewed holistically, employers want five things:

1. Be profitable
2. Reduce/control costs
3. Have low employee turnover
4. Optimize employee performance
5. Provide excellent customer experiences

How can you help an employer achieve any of, or a combination of, the above?

### What's Your Employee Value Proposition?

For instance, you can never go wrong assuming the employer wants to be profitable; hence, suggesting cost-saving measures or revenue-generating ideas during your interview will demonstrate your desire to help the company get what it wants, which is to be profitable.

Imagine yourself as a hiring manager. One of your standard interview questions is: "How will you contribute to the company's success?" or, more directly, "Why should I hire you?"

Candidate A:

"If hired, I will bring enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work to the team. I am a fast learner and have a strong work ethic. I am also a team player."

Candidate B:

"I bring over 15 years of technical expertise, problem-solving skills, and a commitment to innovation. As head of Gekko's IT, I led a project to streamline its data analysis processes, increasing efficiency by 20% and reducing employee hours. I achieved this by implementing Cyberdyne Systems' latest data visualization tools and automating repetitive tasks. I plan to bring this kind of efficiency oversight to Soylent Corporation."

Which candidate would you lean towards hiring?

Candidate A offers nothing more than their unsubstantiated opinions, which, as I've stated in previous columns, employers don't hire; they hire



results. Opinions about yourself, which you should rarely give without quantifying, don't help your interviewer envision how you'll help the company get what it wants.

On the other hand, candidate B outlined how they can help the company achieve wanting to optimize employee performance and cost savings. Candidate B thinks like an employer and understands employers are a sucker for candidates with a track record of helping employers get what they want.

Getting hired doesn't come down to having the shiniest resume, with all the right keywords, being impeccably dressed, having a perfect smile, or sheer luck. Employers hire candidates they feel will get them what they want.

Consider all the successes around you and why they exist.

- Amazon: Shopping delivered to your door.
- Apple iPhone: Handheld communication.
- Facebook: Having a voice. Keeping in touch.
- Starbucks: Coffee served around an experience.
- Taylor Swift: Music young people in angst can relate to.
- MasterCard: Easy to use credit.
- Zig Ziglar: Motivation and encouragement.

The success of the above can be attributed to the fact that they've designed their offering with the end-user in mind, helping people get what they want.

- Amazon: Convenience
- Apple iPhone: Connectivity
- Facebook: Popularity
- Starbucks: Self-care
- Taylor Swift: Understanding
- MasterCard: Lifestyle
- Zig Ziglar: Hope

All successful businesses are based on selling a product or service that will help people get what they want, which is usually intrinsic. A product or service must satisfy a need or want in order to sell. The same applies to job searching. You must fulfill an employer's need or want. Think of employers as the end users of your services; how do you help employers achieve what they want? Are you communicating your how and willingness to help throughout your job search?

Showing how you can help employers get what they want is how you achieve job search success.

# How to Know if You Are Ready For Couples Therapy or Not

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych. | info@nancybergeron.ca



There are many approaches to couples therapy such as Gottman Method, Emotionally Focused Therapy, and IMAGO to name a few. The decision to seek couples therapy requires evaluating your relationship and your willingness to work through challenges. The following are some key signs that you may be ready:

- 1. Communication Issues** – Do you struggle to express your feelings without arguing or shutting down? Are there unresolved conflicts that keep resurfacing?
- 2. Feeling Disconnected** – Has the emotional or physical intimacy in the relationship declined? Do you feel like roommates rather than partners?
- 3. Recurring Problems** – Are you stuck in repetitive arguments or unhealthy patterns? Have individual efforts to fix these issues failed?
- 4. Life Changes or Stressors** – Have recent events (moving, new baby or job) put a strain on your relationship?
- 5. Trust Issues** – Has there been a betrayal such as an infidelity or broken promises? Are you struggling to rebuild trust?
- 6. Desire to Improve** – Are you both willing to put in the effort to strengthen the relationship? Do you believe the relationship has potential for growth?
- 7. Mutual Commitment** – Are you both open to exploring therapy, even if one of you is more hesitant at first?
- 8. Individual Challenges Impacting the Relationship** – Are personal issues such as stress, trauma, or mental health affecting how to connect with each other?

If you relate to some of the above, couples therapy could be beneficial. Even if you're unsure, seeking therapy to explore some of these concerns and set goals can be a proactive step.

The following are some signs that couples therapy could be unproductive or even counter-productive:

- 1. Lack of Commitment to Change** – One or both of you are not genuinely willing to work on the relationship. Going to therapy just to 'check the box' or appease the other.
- 2. Blaming Without Accountability** – If either of you is solely focused on blaming the other without reflecting on your own role in the relationship's challenges.
- 3. Unwillingness to Communicate Honestly** – If either of you are unwilling to be vulnerable, open, and honest, your therapist won't have a full picture to be able to help you.
- 4. Hidden Agendas** – If therapy is being used as a way to justify leaving the relationship rather than to repair it, the process won't be effective.
- 5. One of You is Being Forced into Therapy** – If one of you does not want to attend or doesn't believe in the process, lack of engagement can hinder the process.
- 6. Ongoing Abuse** – Couples therapy is not the right setting to address physical, emotional, or verbal abuse. These situations require specialized interventions to ensure safety and require individual therapeutic attention.
- 7. Unresolved Individual Issues** – If personal issues such as active addiction or untreated mental health conditions are dominating the relationship dynamics, individual therapy is a better starting point before engaging couples therapy.
- 8. Timing is Off** – If there are active external factors like intense work stress, a recent traumatic event, or other life circumstances, it will leave little energy or focus for therapy. It may be better to wait.
- 9. Desire for Separation** – If one of you has already decided to end the relationship and sees therapy as a formality, it will obviously prevent any genuine engagement.

Being ready for couples therapy requires mutual willingness and effort, but readiness can evolve with time and self-reflection.

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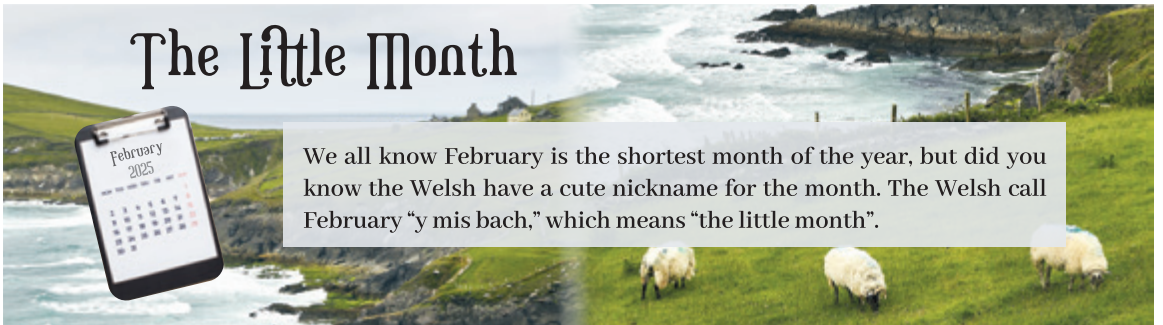
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## The Little Month



We all know February is the shortest month of the year, but did you know the Welsh have a cute nickname for the month. The Welsh call February "y mis bach," which means "the little month".



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