

Practice Exercise 3

Instructions:

Copy the text for the following document and paste into a new Word document. If necessary allow for "wordwrap" by deleting all incorrect hard returns. Save **Save in WP folder as Exercise 3**

Hint	If you have strange characters, select all the text and reselect the font.
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Dog Sledding

Eight sleds line up on the trail. Fifty barking, howling huskies go into frenzy of excitement. Twelve inexperienced tourists shuffle in the snow. The guide fires off orders in all directions. So began our weekend dog sledding adventure on the edge of Algonquin Park.

We had driven up from Ottawa the afternoon before, meeting our friends as they arrived later in the evening. We spent the night in a cozy cabin with a wood stove. The next morning, after a breakfast that Paul Bunyan would have called hearty, our guide, Jan, gave us a short lecture on driving a dogsled. We then stepped outdoors to the scene of canine chaos.

Only thirty of the dogs would make the trip. The too old, too young, and new mothers had to stay behind. After Buck, Brutus, Mystic, Happy and the other lucky ones were in their harnesses, we took off like a runaway train.

Almost immediately we branched off onto a narrow trail that seemed to rise vertically through the bush. Soon we found ourselves coming down the other side of the mountain. These were the first of many climbs and descents we would encounter this day. Going up, we helped the dogs by pushing the sleds ourselves. Coming down, we used our snow brakes to maintain some semblance of control.

In brilliant March sunshine, our route took us on an abandoned rail line along the course of the upper Madawaska River with the white water of rapids boiling below. After about an hour, we turned once more through forest and crossed frozen lakes. Another old railway led finally to the wilderness cabin where we spent the night.

Our gear arrived separately by snowmobile. Jan's assistant, David, a rather stern young man, drove the snow machine by a different approach. He later slept on a ground sheet in the -20 degree outdoor night.

Siberian Huskies are medium to large sized dogs. Many have striking blue eyes; one dog with his left blue and his right brown. They are very powerful for their size. A particularly intelligent dog, often female, leads each sled followed by two to four "swing" or "wheel" dogs. They seem to love working; that's until they are about eleven years old. All were remarkably friendly to us but not always to each other.

Jan's dog, the guide and master of the dogs, is a crusty old veteran. He was often rather hard on us but treats his animals very well, no doubt accounting for their good behaviour.

Dog food time is another time of commotion. Jan cooks up a huge smelly mulligan of mostly animal origin. When he judges that it has reached the correct consistency, he ladles a generous helping onto the snow beside each chained dog. The dogs wolf it down in seconds while those still waiting kick up quite a noise.

After our dinner, some of us marveled at the full sky of stars from our vantage point beside McCauley Creek. Others read or played chess and cribbage by kerosene lamps. No one stayed up very late.

Soon after breakfast the next morning we harnessed our teams again. This time we got the job done much more quickly as we knew more about the dogs and they about us. Jan's impatience to get going was evident. No sooner was his team ready than he pulled his snow anchor and shot down the trail. When the other dogs saw sudden departure it forced those of us who were not quite ready to leap onto a passing sled to avoid a long walk back.

I cannot describe dog sledding as merely riding on a sled. Each sled is tied together rather than fastened rigidly. The driver stands on the rear part of the runners, holding a grab rail. Controlling the sled's motion, especially around curves, is a bit like skiing, a bit like bicycle riding and a lot like nothing else I have ever done. Jan's brochures suggest that participants be "reasonably fit". He is not exaggerating. Even those of us who think we are reasonably fit found our expedition rather demanding.

The trips also place many demands on the dogs. Rest stops only occur when Jan decides they need one. At these times the huskies cool off by rolling and burrowing in the soft snow off the trail's edge. When on the trail, a dog wanting a drink must wait until he is near the side to snatch a mouthful of snow. If he gets tangled, he straightens out his leads without missing a step. If he has to carry out bodily functions, he does it on the run.

We returned by a different route with many ups and downs through the hills to rejoin the Madawaska trail. Those of us on the lead sleds got many instructions from Jan. Those farther back had more time to observe the many signs of moose, wolf, fox, otter and deer. As happened the first day, however, we saw none of the wild animals themselves.

The trip back ended with an almost vertical drop down to home base. After chaining each dog back in his or her place we sat down to our final meal together in the lodge. Jan passed out certificates confirming that we had successfully completed a "Wilderness Dog Sledding Expedition".

Such a weekend may not be your choice for a vacation but for us it was an unforgettable adventure.

Cover Page: At the top of the document create a blank page with Ctrl-Enter.
Use this blank page to create a Cover Page.

Cover page contains:

a relevant title, a border (page border), and your personal information. (include your name, your section #, the date of submission, practice exercise 3 and your teacher's name).

Format the document with the following features:

Title: Inserted in a paragraph border. Choose an appropriate border style. Text in the border is uppercase, bold, centered, font Arial size 16.

Page Numbering: Insert page numbering; top right corner, start on page 2 (no page number on cover page).

Footer: Create a footer, insert a horizontal line.
Text in the footer is: Permission for use by writer, Doug Brandy, 1990.
Font in the footer is Times New Roman, font size 8, italics.

Body text: Leave 3 blank lines between title and main text.

Font: Arial size 11

Justify

Line Spacing 1.5

Tab Paragraphs

Delete any blank lines between paragraphs

If necessary use Page Breaks to keep paragraphs together on the page. (Use your judgment)