

Lesson 1

READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

Ambidextrous

Wouldn't it be convenient to be ambidextrous? If your right hand became tired while you were writing, you could just switch the pencil to your left hand. But most people are right-handed. In fact, according to statistics, fewer than ten out of every one hundred people are left-handed.

In the past, left-handed people were discriminated against. Left-handedness was purported to be a sign of misfortune. Children were considered intractable if they wouldn't stop writing with their left hands. Sometimes, heavy books were placed on top of a child's left hand to force him to switch to his right hand.

Today, experts say these attempts were misguided and unnecessary. Albert Einstein, Babe Ruth, and Leonardo da Vinci were famous "lefties."

The brain is divided into two hemispheres. We now know that if you're right-handed, your left hemisphere is dominant. If you're left-handed, it's the other way around. We think it's inherited because left-handed people usually have relatives who are also left-handed.

Some shops cater to the needs of lefties. Special scissors and baseball mitts are the most popular items.