

Being Left Handed

One out of every **ten** people walking down the street is left-handed. Everywhere they go, left-handed people come across tools that were **de**signed for right handed persons.

From scissors to camcorders to screw drivers to hockey sticks to baseball gloves, lefties learn early on that they need to **de**velop skills to live in **a** world **de**signed for right-handed people.

If **you** are **a** right-handed person, try this **ex**periment sometime: Grab **a** scissors with your left hand and try cutting **a** piece of paper. **Don't** **be** surprised if the **ex**perience **feels** extremely awkward.

Thankfully, there are **com**panies that **make** left-handed scissors, left-handed camcorders, and other left-handed tools. But often times left-handed persons find themselves in **a** situation where they have **no** choice but to **use** something **de**signed for right-handed persons.

In **age**s past, **so**ciety was not **sympa**thetic to left-handed persons. Young students who preferred **u**sing their left hand to **w**rite were punished for doing so. Some of these students **event**ually learned to **w**rite with their right hand, but **only** after **en**ormous effort.

These **day**s **pare**nts and **tea**cher**s** are far more **ac**cepting and understanding. In **al**most every school in the world,

students who are left-handed are allowed to continue using their left hand to write.

Medical researchers have searched long and hard for what causes people to be left-handed or right-handed. The researchers have concluded that left-handed people are left-handed for the same reason as brown eyed people have brown eyes. It's just one of those things that shows up in one out of every ten people.

A really interesting question is whether there is any connection between left-handed people and creative genius. Some of history's most creative minds have been left-handed.

In the category of art, both Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo were left handed. In the category of music, Ludwig van Beethoven was left handed. In the field of science and invention, you find Benjamin Franklin, Isaac Newton, and Albert Einstein. In the field of motion pictures, Charlie Chaplin.

Bobby Fisher, the modern chess genius, is left-handed. So too musical geniuses Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney, and Wynton Marsalis.