Count the S’s Description:

Students are presented a sentence and asked to identify how many times the letter S appears.

Time Guideline: 20 minutes

Purpose: To demonstrate how easy it is to overlook information.

Resources: Handouts 35-A and 35-B Presentation:

1. Present Handout (the sentence below) to students.

2. Ask them to count the number of times the letter S appears in the sentence.

3. Ask by show of hands how many think there are less than 5.

4. Ask by show of hands how many think there are less than 10.

5. Ask by show of hands how many think there are less than 15.

6. Ask by show of hands how many think there are less than 20.

7. Ask by show of hands how many think there are more than 20.

8. Once everyone has had a chance to vote on the number of S’s they believe are in the sentence, reveal that the correct answer is 17.

9. Students circle each s while working as a team.

Debrief: Explain that one of the reasons that it may be so difficult to identify all of the letter Ss in the sentence is that S has a number of different sounds to it depending on its context. Often the softer sounds can easily become camouflaged or hidden within words

Variations: In addition to finding how many times the letter S appears, ask participants how many times the letter F appears. The answer is 6 times.

**Super Sunday**

**Super Sunday often results in many surprises as fans watch with great anticipation to see if their favourite team wins the ultimate prize in professional football each season.**