

HOW TO IMPROVE WRITING SKILLS

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Abstract: *this article analyzes the importance of writing skills. Writing skills is an important aspect of academic achievement. To achieve higher levels, you need constant work on yourself, reading books, magazines and scientific articles. This can theoretically be achieved through deliberate practice.*

Keywords: *writing, skills, improve, read, language.*

If you're reading this, you probably understand English to a certain degree. You probably speak it just fine, and can read it fairly well-but something is missing. You want to write well, too. Maybe you've even tried to improve your English writing, but you feel like you're just running in circles.

Maybe you run a business and your customers are leaving your website in droves because the English in your sales copy doesn't look native. Maybe you started a blog and people keep complaining that they don't understand your grammar sometimes. You keep attempting to proofread your own work, but it doesn't seem to make a difference.

Well, there are two problems that are causing you this grief:

You are not fluent enough in English. As long as that is true, your English writing will always seem unnatural to native speakers.

You haven't written enough in English. Even native English speakers can suck at writing English. Writing is a skill that takes thousands of hours to master, in any language. It's a particularly difficult skill because it requires using both the left and right parts of your brain at the same time. You have to think creatively and logically at once, while automatically minding all of the grammar and spelling rules of the language [1, p.19].

Luckily, these problems are completely fixable. You just need practice. Lots and lots of practice. You need to practice more than just writing, though. Writing is one of those weird skills that requires more than just practicing the skill itself. To be able to write well, you have to learn to think a certain way, to read a certain way, and more importantly, to get into your audience's collective mind.

I've been where you are. Every writer has. We all start out being bad at writing (and some might say that I still am). If English is not your first language, the challenges that you face can be two-fold. So here are some important tips to help you improve your English writing skills [2, p. 8].

Before You Can Write, You Must Read A LOT.

The thing about writing is that it has to come from the subconscious. If you sit there staring at a blank screen, trying to remember all of the grammar and punctuation rules of English as you make your first sentence, you will be sitting there forever. Correct, native-like English grammar needs to come out automatically as you write. You shouldn't even have to consciously think about it. The only way that this can happen is if you have seen at least hundreds of thousands of examples of correctly-written English sentences. You absorb grammar naturally by reading.

Follow these guidelines and you should be fine:

Only read things that you enjoy.

Read a lot. This means reading every day. Go through a few books a week if you can.

Experienced in reading and writing English. This is essential. Do not get advice from people who are as fluent or less fluent than you.

Start Journaling Daily (in English)

Practice, practice, practice! There is no way to get around it; you must practice your writing to get better at it. Just reading will help you improve by leaps and bounds, but what will really solidify your skills is writing in English every day. To be able to do this day after day, you're going to have to make writing a habit. For this, you can start a daily journal. Write about anything you want--just write it in English. Alternatively, you can start a personal blog and use that for your English writing practice [3, p. 28].

References

1. Francine D.Galko Better Writing Right Now' Lesson 3, 2009. P. 19.
2. Academic Writing' Unit: An approach to Academic Writing – Purpose and Strategy Oxford Press, 2011. P. 8.

3. Broughton D. Bridges to Academic Writing, Georgetown University, 2014. P. 28.