



**BLOOMSBURY** INTERNATIONAL

# Improving English Writing Skills

How to develop good writing skills in English



## How to improve your English writing skills

There are many reasons why you might need or want to improve your writing skills in English. Perhaps you need to reply to emails at work in English or take an English language exam, for example, TOEIC or IELTS. Or maybe you need to write essays in English for university, write letters to English friends or relatives or you might want to start writing a blog in English!

Whatever the reason is that you need to improve your English writing skills, you will need to work hard. Having good writing skills in English is not something which is easy to achieve.

### English Writing

English writing is thought to be an essential skill for success in the modern global economy. Many experts would go as far to say that without certain knowledge of English reading skills and English writing skills, a career would be somewhat limited if it involves doing business in English-speaking countries at even a basic level.

Therefore, it is recommended that English writing becomes a necessity for any global businessperson who wishes to advance his or her career in the global marketplace. The good news is that while English reading and English speaking are best learnt in either an online forum or an in-class course, English writing can be taught at a pace consistent with your current writing ability. One method of learning English writing is to study subjects that you enjoy learning about and writing in the style of your favourite authors of those subjects. By writing and rewriting particular passages, words and sentences that make up the work, you will gradually notice and understand particular themes that are often used in English writing. Of course, the best way to learn English writing is together with a good English speaking and reading programme so all three can work together to form the basis of a solid knowledge of the English language.



# 10 tips to help you improve your English writing skills

## 1. Write in English every day

This is the most important tip to improve your writing skills in English. Start by thinking of a theme, for example, you could start writing a diary of something that happens to you every day, you can write a few lines of a story each day or you could write emails to your friends in English. This might be difficult at first but the more you continue, the easier it will become and you might even end up enjoying it!

## 2. Ask someone to check your writing

If you're studying at an English language school, you could ask your teacher to check your writing for you. Otherwise, why not ask a friend or relative who speaks English? I'm sure they'd be happy to help! You might even be able to do a writing language exchange – find an English person who is learning your language and write letters or emails to each other (you can write in English and they can write in your language). When you send a reply, you can also send their letter back to them with corrections and they can do the same for you!

## 3. Improve your vocabulary

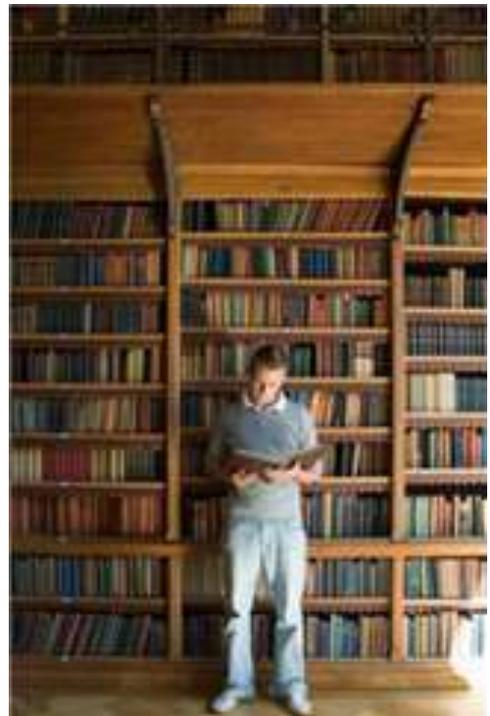
Having a wide range of vocabulary is very important when you're writing in English. An excellent way to improve your vocabulary is to read as much as possible. If you read books, newspapers or magazines in English, you will learn many new words and common English idioms. Remember to write down the new words and expressions you read and their meanings so you can learn them.

## 4. Use a dictionary

You might feel that using a dictionary when you write is 'cheating' but think again – it is actually a great way to improve your vocabulary and practise using words and phrases that you've heard but haven't used before. Remember to ask someone to check your writing to make sure you have used the vocabulary correctly.

## 5. Check your writing carefully

After you have written something in English, you should always read it again, either straight away or the next day. When you do this, you will probably see a few mistakes that you didn't notice when you were writing it. Remember to check the spelling, grammar and vocabulary – have you used a particular word many times? Can you think of another way to say it?



## 6. Write about different topics

If you write about the same thing every day, you could become very bored and you might end up using the same words and phrases over and over again! It is a good idea to find different topics to write about as this will help to widen your vocabulary and will be much more interesting for you. Writing about something you read in a newspaper or watched on TV is a good starting point.

## 7. Do your homework

If you have classes at an English language school, your teacher probably gives you writing homework to do. It is really important that you do all your homework as your teacher knows your level of English and will be able to give you good advice on which parts of writing you need to improve most (e.g. vocabulary, spelling, grammar). This is extremely important if you are planning to take an English language exam.

## 8. Write to your friends

Do you have friends who speak English (e.g. people you have met in your English classes)? If so, you should definitely practise your writing with them! There are many ways to do this – using social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.), sending emails, writing text messages, chatting on Skype etc. The best thing about writing to people who are also learning English is that you can correct each other's mistakes!



## 9. Write a blog

It doesn't even matter if no one reads it, but writing a blog is a great way to practise writing in English. Set yourself a goal (e.g. upload one blog article a week) and start writing! The great thing about a blog is you can write about absolutely anything and there's a chance that you might even help or entertain someone who reads it!

And finally...

## 10. Don't be afraid to make mistakes!

It's easy to decide not to do any English writing as you are worried that you will make lots of mistakes. However, the more you write and get your writing corrected, the fewer mistakes you will make!

**Good luck and  
happy writing!**



## Exercise

Can you spot 10 mistakes in this diary entry?

Look for spelling, grammar and vocabulary mistakes.

