Learning to Write in English for Beginners

**Easy Tips for New Learners**

Get a notebook and your favorite pen or pencil, then get comfortable.

**We are going to write!**

When you are beginning to learn English, it is important to write **regularly**. Writing can help you learn English vocabulary, grammar, spelling and more!

**1. Practice writing in English every day**

*Repetition* (doing the same thing over and over again) will really help you learn the skill of writing. Writing in English will be difficult at first, but if you write a little every day, it will start to get easier.

To make sure you never skip a day, use a system to track your progress. This could be writing it on your calendar, or using a site or app, such as [**Habit Daily Tracker**](https://habitdaily.app/).

You can also make use of techniques such as watching videos to inspire your writing.

**2. Find the best time and place to write**

Everyone has a best time of day to write. Maybe your head is the clearest in the morning. Maybe you’re a *“night owl”* (someone who likes to stay up late) and you are most creative at midnight. Try writing at different times of the day to find out what time works best for you.

After you know when to write, you will also want to know where to write. Maybe you have trouble writing where there is a lot of noise. In that case, try writing in a quiet place like a library. Maybe you need a little background noise, and so you write best in a busy coffee shop. Experiment and see what works for you.

**3. Have a specific place to keep your English writing**

Find**a notebook** to keep all of your writing in. By keeping it all in one place, you will be able to look back on your writing and see how much progress you’ve made. You will also be able to go through all of your writing at once to see if you keep making the same mistakes.

If you like typing on a computer instead, you might consider using [**Evernote**](https://evernote.com/)to keep your writing together. Evernote is a website (and smartphone app) that helps organize your life. You can keep all of your writing in Evernote, and you can also keep track of your writing schedule with the program’s calendar.

**4. Pick a topic to write about before you start**

When you’re ready to start writing, remember to [choose a topic](https://www.fluentu.com/blog/foreign-language-writing-prompts/). Then, **write anything you want about it**.

If your topic is “fishing,” for example, it doesn’t matter if you write facts about fishing or a story about when you went fishing. Just write anything at all! Let your mind wander on the topic.

Set a timer for five minutes and write the entire time. Once you get used to this, write for 10 minutes at a time.

If you can’t think of a topic, just start **free writing**. Free writing is when you put your pen on the paper and write everything that comes to your mind. It doesn’t matter if the ideas connect or not.

**5. Keep a journal in English**

By keeping a personal journal (also called a diary) in English, you will make sure you write every day.

**6. Write more than one draft**

The first *draft* (copy) that you write is not going to be perfect. Write one draft, and then go back and review it for mistakes.

Remember the notebook you have for all your English writing? When you look for mistakes in your writing, you should make a list of your **common mistakes**in that notebook.

Once you have reviewed your writing, go back and **write the entire thing again**. When you rewrite it with the correct grammar, spellings and tenses, you will learn the corrections.

**7. Have a friend edit your English writing**

You most likely will not find all of your own mistakes. After you check your own work, have **a friend who is fluent in English** edit your writing.

Having someone else look at your work will improve your writing and give you new, creative ways to express ideas in English. You can ask your friend to edit the whole document or just a part that you’re having trouble with.

It’s good to get a second opinion on your writing

**8. Use an English dictionary when you study**

When you are studying English and you hear or see a new word, look it up in your dictionary. Say the word a few times and write it down. Say it until it sounds familiar to your ear.

The next time you write, try to write at least one sentence with each new word. When you find words that you really like or that seem important, **highlight them** in the dictionary (it’s okay—it’s your dictionary).

**9. Learn synonyms and antonyms in English**

Whenever you look up a new vocabulary word in English, try to learn at least one word with the same meaning (this is a **synonym**), and one that has the opposite meaning (this is an **antonym**).

For example, take the word “great.” Synonyms include “excellent” and “fantastic,” and some antonyms are “plain,” “ordinary” and “bad.” By learning more than one word for each concept, you will be able to communicate better when you write. Thesaurus is key.

**10. Make English vocabulary flashcards**

When you look up new words, their synonyms and their antonyms, make flashcards for them. On one side of the flashcard, write the word. On the other side, write the meaning, part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, etc.) and a sentence using that word.

**11. Read English books (out loud)**

Reading and writing are connected. That means **reading more often in English** will help you become a better writer.

Start out with simple books and progress by grade level. Picture books are a great start to make connections with new vocabulary.

**12. Translate songs, lyrics, and poems into English**

 **Listen to you tube or other video platforms of stories**

Choose your favorite song in your native language, and translate the lyrics into English. Then,**try singing it in English**. You can even try to rewrite some of the lines in English to make them rhyme.

You can do the same thing with poems you love. The words used in songs and poems will likely be very different from the words you see every day in books, newspapers and even your journal.

By practicing songs, you’ll be able to practice writing, and you will also learn new ways to talk about concepts like love, faith, fear, *rejection* (being told “no”) and other topics usually addressed in music.

**The most important tip is to write in English regularly. Start with a small time frame such as 5 minutes and then continue to increase times. Write with a purpose by creating a list of topics or writing styles.**

* **Descriptive**
* **Persuasive**
* **Expository**
* **Compare and Contrast**
* **Other**

Learning to write in English will take time. You need to build your vocabulary, learn proper grammar and learn how to spell correctly.