

Introduction

Learning how to write well is a lot like learning how to play tennis or other sports. You will never become good at tennis if you don't practice a lot. You will never learn how to play tennis well if you only think about playing it or if you read books about it. The only way you learn how to be a good tennis player is if you spend a lot of time actually playing tennis. Beginning tennis players first learn how to hit the ball across the net and then they spend a lot of time practicing how to serve. Finally they can play a game with other people but they are always trying to improve their skills. Learning how to become a good writer follows the same principles. Being a good writer requires a lot of practice because you can't learn how to write well by only thinking about writing or reading about writing. You have to write!

Simply Writing: Step-by-Step Mastery of Written English is designed to give students at every level plenty of opportunity, not only to write in English, but also to develop their listening and speaking skills. It is divided into three sections, Simply Basic, Simply Skillful, and Simply Successful. The first section introduces students to basic, everyday, English writing. Students learn how to write a diary, how to write various kinds of letters, how to fill out different kinds of forms, how to send e-mail and how to write about travel. Once the students gain confidence in these easy, real-life writing skills, they are ready to move on to the second part of the book: Simply Skillful. In this section students learn how to write descriptively, express an opinion, make comparisons, and describe how to do something. Each chapter in these two sections also includes an exercise that focuses on grammar, which will enable the students to achieve a greater degree of accuracy in their English writing. The third section of the book introduces the student to English academic writing, starting with the basic paragraph. Students learn how to write a topic sentence for a paragraph and how to provide supporting details for that topic sentence. The last two chapters of the book show students how to write a five-paragraph essay, which is the cornerstone of collegiate writing.

One important feature of this book is the appendix, which both teachers and students will find useful. The first appendix is a writing checklist. Teachers can have their students read over this checklist before turning in their work to encourage them to take responsibility for proofreading their own writing. The second appendix is a list

of a wide variety of possible writing topics. The third appendix shows what various kinds of English writing should actually look like on paper.

Becoming a good writer involves a lot of hard work and dedication. It's not an easy thing to do, but it is not an impossible task either. All you need to do is to say to yourself that you can become a skillful English writer! And if you practice hard enough, you will!

Good Luck!

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