

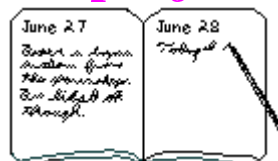
How to Improve Your Writing

By Claire Jordan Mohan

Some things you can do to improve your writing:

1. Keep a journal
2. Write letters
3. Listen to the rhythm of music
4. Read poetry
5. Read beautiful prayers, like the Psalms
6. Think in word pictures
7. Increase your vocabulary
8. Write your thoughts
9. Read
10. Express your feelings - write, write, write
11. Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite
12. Study grammar and the rules of punctuation

1. Keep a journal

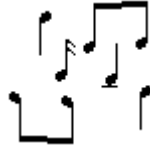


- a. describe daily events
- b. write your thoughts about them
- c. write something you want to remember
- d. describe something you saw -- a golden flower, a purple cow, etc.
- e. express a prayer
- f. write a happy thought

2. Write letters

- a. to your mother, your father, a friend -- even while in the same house
- b. express your feelings
- c. describe a happening

3. Listen to the rhythm of music



- a. be aware of the cadence
- b. listen to the beat
- c. notice how music expresses feelings of joy, sadness, excitement

4. Read poetry

- a. listen to the rhythm
- b. be aware of the beauty
- c. listen to the feelings expressed

5. Read beautiful prayers, like the Psalms

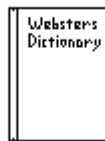


- a. listen to how they express feelings
- b. be aware of the beauty of the word

6. Think in word pictures

- a. look out the window -- what do you see?
- b. think with your eyes
- c. compare things, create visual images
- d. use metaphors
- e. find strong verbs
- f. use verbs as nouns -- to vacation, to phone, to park,
- g. practice seeing objects and abstractions in human or animal form,
"blind as a bat, sly as a fox, hungry as a wolf," etc.
- h. form new endings of old sayings "it hit me like..." "he was crazy as a..."
- i. when you awaken, write about your dreams

7. Increase your vocabulary

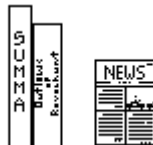


- a. collect new words
- b. adopt words you find in your reading
- c. practice alliteration

8. Write your thoughts

- a. allow your characters to know you
- b. express your feelings through them

9. Read, Read, Read

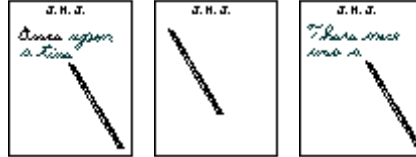


- a. everything you get your hands on -- newspapers, stories, poetry, prayers, fiction, non fiction, biography, etc.

10. Express your feelings - write, write, write

a. answer questions: Who, what, when, where, how

11. Rewrite, Rewrite, Rewrite



- writing is nine-tenths rewriting
- read your writings to others
- read aloud to yourself
- listen to what you hear and act on it

12. Study grammar and the rules of punctuation