

Grammar for writers - English first language

The grammar for writers course is for writers who want to iron out grammar gremlins, improve their writing style and gain a deeper understanding of the rules that make for good writing, it will benefit journalists, editors, web writers, copywriters and all creative writers.

In good writing the sentences just flow off the page. Their meaning is crystal clear, and as a reader you are drawn in to the narrative, whether it is crime fiction or political analysis. In bad writing, the sentences feel clunky, and you may have to stop and re-read a sentence to figure out what the writer means. You might think the difference is all about creativity and verve, but usually, it is something as basic as grammar.

Course details:

- Modules: four modules
- Duration: course can be completed at own pace: between up to eight months
- Start date: at any time, applications all year round via our website

Student must complete:

- Four theoretical modules
- 80 practical writing exercises that students submit for assessment and feedback

Admission requirements:

- Must be proficient in writing
- Computer skills, email and Internet access required
- No previous tertiary qualification required

Tutor for this course: Rosemary Hepozden

Course curriculum

Parts of speech

- Includes a 50-page course manual
- Reading and revision time: four+ hours
- Writing time: seven+ hours
- Duration: two months
- 18 assignments

Topics covered:

- Nouns: give it a name
- Pronouns: take your place
- Verbs: do it, be it, feel it
- Adverbs: how do you like it?
- Adjectives: what's it like?
- Articles: three little words
- Prepositions: state your position
- Conjunctions: getting it together!
- Interjections: what poppycock!

English grammar for writers part one

- Includes a 90-page course manual
- Reading and revision time: six + hours

- Writing time: 10 + hours
- Duration: two months
- 19 assignments

Topics covered:

- Know the parts of speech
- When to use a or an
- Work with the past tense
- Know your active from passive voice
- When passive is preferable
- Misplaced modifiers: only
- How to use the pronouns me - myself - I
- How to look for unnecessary adjectives
- Working with expletives
- 100 words commonly confused

English grammar for writers part two

- Includes a 110-page course manual
- Reading and revision time: six+ hours
- Writing time: 10+ hours
- Duration: two months
- 26 assignments

Topics covered:

- Know the parts of speech
- Correct subject-verb agreement
- Create pronoun-antecedent agreement
- Problems with pronouns
- Use steps of comparison correctly
- How to show possession using an apostrophe
- Foreign words you should know and understand
- Two ways to boost your speed and clarity
- Which to use: who or whom, less or fewer, which or that, amount or number
- Use the correct mood of the verb
- Manage your modifiers

English grammar for writers part three

- Includes a 100-page course manual
- Reading and revision time: six+ hours
- Writing time: 10+ hours
- Duration: two months
- 17 assignments

Topics covered:

- Know the parts of speech
- What is a sentence?
- Three easily spotted problems with sentences
- Solving sentence mayhem
- How conjunctions function
- Understand clauses
- Sentence types: mixing it up
- Keep in line: parallel structure

- Use the comma correctly
- Punctuation: 10 tricks to learn
- Outdated rules and new personal habits

Date: 12 February 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 26 February 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 05 March 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 26 March 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 02 April 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 30 April 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 07 May 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 28 May 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 04 June 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495

Date: 25 June 2018

Venue: Online correspondence course, Countrywide

Cost: R5,495