

HOW READING IMPROVES WRITING

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
–Dr. Seuss

Writing is a talent that is created through practice, and reading is the practice for writing. By studying the work of great writers you will be able to improve your own writing as well.

WHY READING IMPROVES WRITING

From the time we are children, we train ourselves into learning words and making sense of the information that we are naturally collecting. When we read, our brains notice more than just the meaning of the words; they also recognize sentence structure, patterns of words, rhythms of speech, and punctuation. Our ears can hear when a sentence sounds wrong, even if we don’t understand the grammatical rule behind the error. Similarly, we can write beautiful sentences without understanding the grammatical principles that make the sentence beautiful. The more we read, the more our brains are able to recognize good patterns and the more likely we will be able to follow these good patterns in our own writing.

WHAT TO DO

- **Read often** – This will help you become more familiar with language, as you come into contact with new words and phrases. This will expand your vocabulary and help you communicate more effectively.
- **Read your own writing out loud** – If your ears and mind are well-trained through reading, you will be able to hear any mistakes you may have made.
- **Read like a writer** – Train yourself by observing the form and presentation of your reading.
Ask yourself:
 - What is this writer’s style and tone?
 - Why does the writer present information in this order?
 - What is the effective thing about this piece of writing?
 - Can I incorporate similar things in my own writing?