



Writing in English

Writing is an essential skill in your studies, and you will need to express your ideas clearly, confidently and accurately.

There are many strategies you can use to develop your English writing skills: here are 5 that you can start putting into practice straight away.

1. Start messy

Good writing depends on good ideas and a clear message, but that doesn't mean you should aim to be perfect right away.

Instead, generate lots of ideas and try different ways of telling your story. This will help you think more clearly about what's most important: your key message.

There are many different techniques that can help you get your ideas on the page fast, so you can then move on to refining your writing. For example, you can try free writing. Write on any topic for at least 15 minutes. Don't edit your writing as you go, just keep writing. Free writing regularly will help increase the speed and fluency of your writing.

Remember: you can edit a rough draft, but you can't edit a blank page.

2. Write regularly

Don't wait for your assignments to come around before you start practising writing.

Keep a writing journal. Record your thoughts daily in a notebook, diary or social media. Writing regularly will help you try out new expressions and learn to think in English.

It is a good idea to regularly write summaries of your course readings and lecture notes as well, as this will also help you retain the information for longer, and make preparing for assignments and exams easier.

3. Read extensively

To write well in English, read in English every day, and read from diverse sources: academic texts, newspapers, novels, poetry.

Reading widely will improve your vocabulary and your awareness of different ways of expressing oneself, which will in turn help you develop your own 'voice' as a writer.

4. Read with purpose

As you read, don't just read for comprehension. Pay attention to sentence structures and phrases that you can incorporate into your own writing. This will help you expand your vocabulary and express your ideas with confidence.

5. Know your grammar

Correct grammar is typically more important in written English than in spoken English, and in order to do well in your assignments you need to understand English grammar very well.

UWA India provides [academic skills resources and support](#) for understanding grammar in an academic context.

Whatever your discipline is, expressing yourself confidently and clearly in writing is essential. The more you read and write, the better you will understand yourself as a thinker.