

# LESSON 187

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## Writing an article

Please note: There are writing homework titles at the end of this book.

**journal                      blog                      factual                      eye-catching**

An article:

- is normally published in a magazine, newspaper or journal, or on a website such as a blog. It can be about any topic;
- usually contains factual information about the topic, but also gives the opinions of the writer and even other people;
- should be interesting/useful, as the reader has no obligation to keep reading;
- can have a number of different purposes (to inform, entertain, advise etc.);
- can use a formal, neutral or informal style, depending on where it will be published and who will read it.

**approach                      systematic                      do your utmost**

**socialize                      keep at**

### ***So many English Words!***

(1) Make sure you have an eye-catching title that also gives information about the topic.

When you're learning English, how can you possibly remember every word you come across? You can't, but here are some suggestions to help you acquire the vocabulary you need.

(2) Get the reader's attention by having an interesting first sentence or introduction paragraph.

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Firstly, outside school, only learn what's useful. Everyone knows how it feels to be chatting in English and suddenly realize you're missing a really important word. In my view, one great idea is to use a notebook or an app on your phone to jot down such words in your own language. Then, later,

look them up in English and record them in a 'personal vocabulary book'. When reading, you should take a similar approach. Look up words, but again, only record what you think will come in handy later. There's no point learning high-level or specialized vocabulary you'll never need again. Another important thing is to be systematic. Decide how you're going to record words – by topic, by date, or maybe just alphabetically. By all means use more than one method, but be organized.

But to remember words, revision is the answer. Why not create a numbered card filing system with ten words or so and their translations on each card. You carry one card with you every day, and test yourself to see if you know the items on it, and try to use them in conversations too! The next day, you study a different card, and so on. But **you need** to return to each card regularly, and revise until you know all the words on it.

Above all, **never forget** that practice makes perfect. So, do your utmost to write and speak English regularly. Visit internet chat rooms, socialize with people who can speak English, or, best of all, find a job where you'll speak English sometimes.

Finally, never give up! The more words you know, the easier it is to remember new ones. So get organized, keep at it, and before long you'll be communicating like a native!

'Talk' to the reader directly by using the pronoun "you" where appropriate, and by using the imperative for giving advice etc. This helps to keep the reader interested.

**Where are articles normally published?** Articles ... in a magazine, newspaper or journal, or on a website such as a blog

**How can we decide whether to write an article in a formal, neutral or informal style?** We ... by thinking about where it will be published and who will read it

**Why should we try to make an article interesting to read?** We ... because the reader has no obligation to keep reading

**What should we put at the start of an article?** At the start ..., we should put an eye-catching title and an interesting first sentence or introduction paragraph

1159 **Why is it a good idea to use the pronoun "you" where appropriate?** It's ... because it helps to keep the reader interested

**alight****fire brigade**

If a barbecue fire got out of control and set some trees alight, which emergency service would you call? If ..., I'd call the fire brigade

Sometimes in a bus we see a notice saying "Please do not alight until the bus stops". What does that mean? A notice in a bus that says "Please do not alight ..." means "Please do not get off ..."

**tackle****reprimand****resort to****foresee**

If one football player tackles another in a dangerous fashion, what happens? If ..., the player is reprimanded or punished

Have you ever been in a situation where you've been forced to resort to violence? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

What happened?

Can you foresee a time in the future when governments might resort to banning the private use of cars in an effort to tackle the world's climate problems? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

**auction****bid**

Have you ever bid for anything successfully in an auction? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

1160 What did you buy? I bought ...

**undue**

What's the meaning of the word "undue"? The meaning ... excessive

Give me a sentence with the word "unduly" in it, please. I was not unduly worried about the fact that I hadn't yet received an answer to my letter

**hurtle****pace**

What does the verb "hurtle" mean? The verb "hurtle" means to move very quickly in an uncontrolled and usually dangerous manner

Give me an example, please.

The horse and cart came hurtling round the corner at a frightening pace

### **stray**

Would you ever consider adopting a stray dog or cat?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

### **puddle**

### **soggy**

### **squelch**

If you walked through a deep puddle, would your shoes and socks get soggy?

Yes, if ...

And what kind of noise would your shoes make?

My ... squelching noise

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### **startle**

### **start**

### **absorbed**

Are you easily startled by sudden loud noises?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

If you were absorbed in a book and someone behind you tapped you on the shoulder, would it give you a start?

Yes, if ...

### **impulse**

### **think over**

Are you the kind of person who does things on impulse or do you tend to think things over first?

I'm the kind of ...; I don't

tend ... ~ I'm not the kind of ...; I tend ...

### **random**

What does the word "random" mean? The word "random" means "without aim or purpose", or "without conscious selection"

Give me an example, please.

During his show, the magician got random members of the audience to help him on stage

### **anticipate**

### **prosperity**

### **prosperous**

Do you anticipate that this country's prosperity will rise in the next ten years or so, or do you anticipate that the country will become less prosperous?

I anticipate that ...

1162 **stud**

Why do football boots have studs on the bottom?      Football boots ... to ensure that they grip the ground well and prevent players from slipping over

**doze**

**doze off**

Have you ever dozed off while watching a film at the cinema?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

**will**

What's the opposite of doing something "voluntarily"?      The opposite ... "against your will"

Would you say you had a very strong will?

Yes, I'd say ... ~  
No, I wouldn't say ...

**munch**

**nibble**

What's the difference between the verbs "munch" and "nibble"?

The difference ... is that when we munch food, we move our jaws a great deal, rather like a cow eating grass, whereas when we nibble food, we take tiny bites rather like a mouse

**estate**

**vendor**

Are there any industrial estates on the outskirts of this town?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

1163 When purchasing property in this country, do buyers usually use an estate agent rather than deal directly with vendors?      Yes, when purchasing ... ~

No, when purchasing ...

**absent-minded**

**narrow-minded**

**like-minded**

What does the phrase "absent-minded" mean?

The phrase "absent-minded" means "forgetful"

Do elderly people tend to be rather absent-minded? Yes, ...

Do most teenagers regard their parents as narrow-minded? Yes, ...

Give me a sentence with the phrase "like-minded", please. Their marriage is successful mainly because they're extremely like-minded

## **hunk**

Do you prefer to eat bread and cheese in big hunks, or sliced into sandwiches? I prefer ...

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### **Word pool 3: revision exercise**

For each sentence below, choose one word from the word pool that fits correctly in the gap.

<b>crust</b>	<b>triumph</b>	<b>vest</b>	<b>fist</b>	<b>vegetation</b>
<b>tuition</b>	<b>solicitor</b>	<b>crockery</b>	<b>cord</b>	<b>forgery</b>
<b>mustard</b>	<b>fluff</b>	<b>runway</b>	<b>carpenter</b>	<b>awe</b>

- 1 I know it's by a famous designer, but I still can't believe she got me a \_\_\_\_\_ for my birthday!
- 2 Although I enjoy studying law at university, I think working as a \_\_\_\_\_ would be pretty dull.
- 3 I'll use the vacuum cleaner to clear up the \_\_\_\_\_ that's collected at the bottom of the wardrobe.
- 4 There was a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ among the crowd as they watched the rocket being launched.
- 5 The pile of \_\_\_\_\_ fell onto the kitchen floor, smashing into a hundred little pieces.
- 6 Larry, forming a tight \_\_\_\_\_ with his right hand, waited for trouble to start.
- 7 Tim will be able to mend your table; he was a professional \_\_\_\_\_ for ten years.

- 8 The king's \_\_\_\_\_ in the final battle against the rebels changed the course of history.
- 9 The boy said the \_\_\_\_\_ on the bread was too hard for him, and he asked me to cut it off.
- 10 This particular \_\_\_\_\_ is long enough for large aircraft, but the other two aren't.
- 11 Most of the \_\_\_\_\_ died during the long, hot, dry summer but grew back in the following spring.
- 12 I'm so sorry, but the \_\_\_\_\_ has left a nasty yellow stain on your pullover.
- 13 You can only see the banknote is a \_\_\_\_\_ when you look really closely.
- 14 I'm not going to pay that much for just half an hour of \_\_\_\_\_; it's a ridiculous price!
- 15 He struggled to free himself but could just feel the \_\_\_\_\_ getting tighter around his wrists.