

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

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This e-learning course has been designed to stimulate the creativity of those who simply love to write. Its focus is on getting started – physically scribbling away or clacking on your keyboard – and overcoming the fear of first drafts. It will share with you a number of effective techniques and activities for generating ideas and will discuss topics that encourage you to fine-tune your writing abilities.

The course is designed for anyone who can write – and anyone can write! For those that are enamoured with words, those that love to create new stories, and those that are simply aiming to jumpstart their inspiration: this course is for you. It's not here to try and teach you all the fundamentals of English grammar and basic storytelling. All it aims to do is get you writing.

Module One: Welcome to Creative Writing

This module provides an overview of what the course's aims are and what it contains. It exists as a precursor to the rest of the course in that it intends to stimulate your mind and remind you that even though writing can be challenging at times, it is a wonderful art.

- What are the course's aims?
- What will the course focus on?
- How to use this course

Module Two: Running With Writing Prompts Part 1: What's the Situation?

This module introduces you to writing prompts, which are designed to light up your mind and get you writing. It explores their effectiveness and how you can go about utilising them for yourself. Part 1 is focused on 'situation' writing prompts.

- What is a writing prompt?
- What's the situation?
- Running with writing prompts
- Writing exercise
- Example writing prompt
- Brainstorming/finding writing prompts
- Writing exercise

Module Three: Running With Writing Prompts Part 2: Pick a Word; Any Word

Part 2 looks at how the act of selecting random words is an effective writing prompt. It demonstrates techniques for doing so and for utilising them in such a way that a story idea will be sparked in your mind.

- Pick a word; any word
- Brainstorming/finding random words
- Writing exercise
- Example writing prompt

Module Four: Running With Writing Prompts Part 3: He Said, She Said

Part 3 looks at how you might use lines of dialogue to prompt story ideas. It explains why they are an effective starting point and explores various techniques and

activities for generating or finding lines that hold potential.

- He said, she said
- Brainstorming/finding dialogue
- Writing exercise
- Example writing prompt

Module Five: This Is My Story

This module discusses how writing characters effectively will make your story's world feel alive. It focuses on why point of view is a crucial factor and discusses how you can look at characters from a new angle to both enhance your characters and to inspire story ideas.

- This is my story
- Do you see what I see?
- Writing exercise

Module Six: The Music of Language

This module teaches you about the music behind everything we write. It focuses on how the rhythm of writing truly impacts the reader's immersion in the story. It looks at how controlling the flow of everything you write will make for a melodious work of art.

- Rhythmic sentences
- Complementary words
- Assorted sentences
- Fragmented sentences

Module Seven: The Description See-Saw

This module will familiarise you with finding a balance when writing descriptions. It focuses on how the momentum of your story can be disrupted by overbearing or insufficient descriptions, and explains how you can effectively integrate your character descriptions into the story.

- The description see-saw
- Characters on catwalks
- Too much salt spoils the flavour

Module Eight: Constrained Writing Sets You Free

This module looks at the effectiveness of constrained writing, which is designed to encourage a writer to follow certain restrictions that compel them to get writing. It explains how constrained writing fosters creativity; it simultaneously constricts the writer and sets them free.

- What is constrained writing?
- Types of constrained writing
- Flash fiction
- Flash fiction: brainstorming ideas
- Word selection
- Word selection: brainstorming ideas
- 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
- 5, 4, 3, 2, 1: brainstorming ideas
- No turning back
- Talk through me
- Writing exercise
- Writing exercise: example

Aims of the Training

By the end of this course learners will:

- Feel inspired and will have rekindled their love for writing.
- Have explored a number of techniques and sources for generating ideas – including writing prompts, rewriting from new perspectives, and constrained writing.
- Have taken a number of practical exercises that encourage them to write and help them flex their writing muscles.
- Have explored various topics – including the construction of sentences, characters, descriptions, and other fundamentals – that will help improve their existing storytelling and writing skills.