

Language, Grammar and Composition

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”

Proverbs 18:21

Teaching of language begins from the moment of birth. Your child grows gradually in understanding of spoken language as he matures. Your child can become an “author” long before he is able to read or write by telling stories to you and eventually dictating stories and letters for you to write down. If he has this background, it will be easy for him to write his own stories after he has mastered the mechanics of written language.

As with all subjects, use English curriculum materials as a tool to achieve your goals, and do not be a slave to a pre-designed curriculum.

Adventist Materials and Resources

♥ AY (Pathfinders and Adventurers)

Many AY awards, honors and class work require oral or written descriptions. These are excellent opportunities to learn and apply compositional skills. (Check *Adventurer Manual*, *AY Instructor’s Guide* and *AY Honors* book for specific requirements such as Journalism.) There is also a Sign Language honor that is a fun and practical to pursue and can develop into service for others.

The King’s English

Becky Kaylor Vermilyea, 73 HC 34, Mt. Grove, MO 65711.

This is an excellent English curriculum, a sequential order of learning, but topics and activities vary throughout the course so that the student does not get bored with a lot of one thing. Plus, there is constant review, so the student doesn’t forget concepts as easily. The series consists of Books A, B, C, D, E, and F (corresponding

“One of the fundamental branches of learning is language study. In all our schools, special care should be taken to teach the students to use the English language correctly in speaking, reading, and writing. Too much cannot be said in regard to the importance of thoroughness in those lines.” One of the most essential qualifications of a teacher is the ability to speak and read distinctly and forcibly. He who knows how to use the English language fluently and correctly can exert a far greater influence than one who is unable to express his thoughts readily and clearly.” *Counsels to Teachers*, page 216

to grades 3-8). Sentence and paragraph material used are Bible stories, nature stories, and Ellen White stories. If you run across anyone with used copies to sell, it would be worthwhile to obtain them! Or you can order unbound photocopies of the original master copies directly from the author, contact the author for costs.

“Be sure that you thoroughly understand the simple rules of English grammar, and have learned to read and write and spell correctly.” Counsels to Teachers, page 218

Other Christian/secular materials

♥ Any Child Can Write

Harvey S. Wiener. (Bantam Books, Elijah Company, God’s World Books)

Highly recommended by the Moores to include writing in your child’s learning experience.

*Teaching Tip:
To build language,
spelling, cognitive and
problem-solving skills,
practice spelling lists,
review terms learned in
your Learning Projects and
by doing Word Search
Puzzles.*

*Design your own puzzles
with software from
www.wordsearchmaker.com*

The Blue Book

www.grammarbook.com

Indispensable tool for teachers, students, writers, proofreaders and editors. Learn grammar and punctuation. Preview contents on website.

The Grammar Key

P. O. Box 3320, Tulsa, OK
74153; 800/480-0539.

Complete grammar course for beginners, remedial, retraining, dyslexic or special needs. Sensible, logical and easy to use.

Easy Grammar

Wanda Phillips. (Timberdoodle)

Described as an approach to English grammar that “really works!” Author offers a 100% unconditional guarantee. Begins with mastering of prepositions and prepositional phrases, making the rest of parts of speech identification much easier.

Fine Writing

1245 32nd St. S. E., Auburn, WA 98002.

Receive a comprehensive report of your child's' strengths and weaknesses. Assessed in 11 skill categories.

Webster University

www.webster.edu/writingcenter/tips/index.shtml

Power Point presentations on commas and 150 other parts of grammar such as run-on sentences, punctuation, pronouns and more.

In the presence of such a Teacher, of such opportunity for divine education, what worse than folly is it to seek and education apart from Him—to seek to be wise apart from Wisdom; to be true while rejecting Truth; to seek illumination apart from the Light, and existence without the Life; to turn from the Fountain of living waters, and hew out broken cisterns, that can hold no water.'
Education, page 83

♥Learning English with the Bible

(Timberdoodle)

Uses the Bible to teach parts of speech, sentence structure, composition, diagramming, and more. Set of three books, \$16.25 for grades 5 and up. Great for high school review of English.

Jensen's Grammar

(Timberdoodle) \$25

Incremental instruction of the fundamentals for grades 7-12, 75 lessons, tests, exercises, teachers helps.

Learning English Using Punctuation and Capitalization

(Timberdoodle)

Similar to the book above, grades 4-12. \$5.00

Learning Language Arts Through Literature

(Cornerstone Curriculum Project and

www.common sensepress.com)

I am hesitant to list this resource because of the fiction literature that it is based on. It is considered "good" fiction, from a non-Adventist point of view, but fiction, nonetheless. You would have to examine the material and make the decision based on your personal convictions.

The writer claims this contains complete instruction for all aspects of language arts: grammar, spelling, copying, dictation, writing mechanics, penmanship, comprehension, as well as phonics and reading (decoding) on the earliest levels. Grade 1 – 12.

It is not necessary to follow someone else's set curriculum for English. Once your child can read and write and knows the basics of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and word usage, the best learning experience is to just write—personal and business letters, journals, stories, essays, reports, research papers, large and small, daily journal, a video or book review, your own biography. Encourage your child in reading aloud and speaking—giving Scripture and prayer, mission stories, telling Bible stories to younger children, etc. Learn to take notes during a sermon or while watching a documentary.

Rod and Staff

(traditional textbooks)

This is an English curriculum for the elementary grades 1-8. A good guide to English though the workbooks tend to be tedious.

In addition, there are *English Worksheets* that can be used, as needed, for supplementary work in conjunction with any English curriculum. Each set of three books each is presented in two levels, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 (which has accompanying *Teacher's Manuals*), containing:

- ✚ The Eight Parts of Speech
- ✚ The Sentence
- ✚ Punctuation and Capitalization
- ✚ English Handbook, reference volume to supplement any English curriculum.

Understanding Writing

Bradrick Family Enterprises, 25 Geissler Road, Montesano, WA 98563; 360/249-2472. Send SASE for information.

Christ-centered, Bible-based language and composition curriculum for grades 1-12, suitable for teaching to several children on different grade levels, may be introduced to students at any grade level. Written by a homeschool mother for homeschoolers. Emphasizes content, style, and mechanics (must be supplemented with grammar), teaches basic types of writing: descriptive, narrative, informative, persuasive. About \$65 (\$85 with binder) + \$6.50 S&H.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

(The Horne Book, Landmark Distributors)

The definitions in this dictionary are thorough and complete, untainted by humanistic ideas and they frequently contain scripture references. A facsimile copy. A CD-ROM of this dictionary is available from CTI Technologies, Internet: www.christiantech.com or call 800/366-8320.

♥Winston Program

(The Moore Academy, Hewitt)

This is the grammar program recommended by Dr. Moore and many Adventist homeschooling moms who have used it. It can be used by itself or to supplement other English curriculums. The system uses colorful cards for parts of speech and sentence structure, which makes grammar easy to learn. There is a student workbook and teacher's book for each level of *Winston Grammar*. Could start at grades 3 or 4, depending on your child.

Winston Grammar covers the eight basic parts of speech and how they are used in sentences.

Advanced Winston Grammar covers more difficult concepts, such as clauses, infinitives, gerunds, and compound and complex sentences.

Usage offers a unique selection of English usage challenges designed to eliminate over 60% of grammar errors occurring in everyday spoken and written language.

Vocabulary (grade 7 and above) comes in Leves I, II, and III, covering 1200 words which are the kind are most likely to appear on the *S.A.T.*'s. Each kit contains a workbook and audiotape for correct pronunciation.

Punctuation (ungraded) includes all of the information for punctuation success.

Wordsmith

Janie B. Cheaney. Small Ventures, 11023 Watterson Dr., Dallas, TX 75226; 940/566-6123. (Also Timberdoodle) Creative writing for grades 6+, \$11.

- 📖 *Wordsmith Apprentice* – ages 9-12, \$16. Paragraph writing, reporting, sentences, parts of speech, opinion writing.

Teaching Tip:
Everyone likes to share what he or she knows. Have your children write out directions to Grandma's house, how to make..., how to do..., how to play... Write down stories that your child dictates to you then read them back. This helps children learn that our words are also thoughts.

🚩 *Wordsmith Craftsman* – grades 10-12. \$14. Includes practical writing skills, note taking and summarizing.

Write@home

www.writeathome.net

Online writing classes for high school students, weekly feedback by professional writing coaches include weekly lessons that are challenging and creative.

♥ **Writers Inc.**

(Moore Academy, Great Christian Books, or book stores)

Excellent reference book for high schoolers for writing, speech making and proofreading. \$10

Writer's Intl. Forum for Young Authors,

P.O. Box 516, Tracyton, WA 98393-0516.

A newsletter for young writers, featuring a stimulating method of developing language skills, manuscripts with editor's comments, open markets, how to submit stories, etc. Subscription-\$24.

Writing Road to Reading (Phonics, Reading, Spelling, Writing)

(See description under Handwriting/Phonics/Spelling/Vocabulary)

Writing to God's Glory

P. O. Box 736, Lake Hamilton, FL 33851.

By a homeschool mother and former English teacher, a tried and tested method of teaching children to write. \$35.

“I am the First and the Last, and the Living One.”

Revelation 1:17, RSV

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

Revelation 21:6 RSV

Writing Strands

National Writing Institute, 7946 Wright Road, Niles, MI 49120; 616/684-5375.

Challenging writing projects specifically for homeschoolers. Assignments concentrate on teaching how to write in the four major modes: argumentative, explanatory, research and report, and creative. Level 1 consists of oral work for ages 3-8. Levels 2 – 7 covers grades 2-12. Write or call for brochure and price information and about their new option of grading your child's writing.