

# Upgrade Your Writing

*Video Aided Instruction - A Basic Skills Program*

*DVD series, 10 parts*

**Introductions** **Transitions**  
**Building** **Paragraphs**  
**Overcoming** **Writer's** **Block**  
**Expressing** **Yourself** **Creatively**  
**Connections** **Improving** **Your** **Vocabulary**  
**Avoiding** **Common** **Mistakes**  
**Prewriting** **Organizing** **Your** **Thoughts**  
**Crafting** **Sentences**  
**Conclusions**



AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

## **Upgrade Your Writing Series**

*10 parts, 1 hr 8 mins - 1 hr 29 mins each,  
produced in 2008*

The best writers really know how to express their ideas and impress their readers. If you have trouble achieving these goals, then you need to *Upgrade Your Writing* - with Video Aided Instruction! This user-friendly series makes it easier than ever to develop those basic writing skills: it helps middle-school students through adults (especially challenged learners requiring remediation) take their written communication to the next level.

### **Upgrade Your Writing 1: Prewriting**

*1 hr 22 mins*

In this first program in our series, you'll learn many different prewriting techniques that will help you answer that fundamental question: What should I write about? The ultimate resource for "getting started" on a writing project, this program will teach you to focus on your assignment, your purpose, and your audience. You'll learn great tips for evaluating topics, brainstorming ideas, and getting your first words down on paper.

### **Upgrade Your Writing 2: Organizing Your Thoughts**

*1 hr 18 mins*

Now you can turn even the most disconnected jumble of ideas into a cohesive piece of writing! In this second program in our series, you'll learn proven methods of organization that you can use to impose order on your writing. You'll discover how to best utilize various structures for outlining and arranging your ideas, so that your finished product has unity, logic, and flow.

### **Upgrade Your Writing 3: Overcoming Writer's Block**

*1 hr 8 mins*

Has "blinking cursor syndrome" got you down? In this third program in our series, you'll learn proven strategies for conquering that dreaded writer's block - once and for all! You'll discover a treasure trove of effective techniques for quickly filling up that blank page with useful raw material. You'll learn how to resist procrastination, shift yourself into "writing gear," complete your assignment, and reduce your anxiety along the way!

## **Upgrade Your Writing 4: Crafting Sentences**

*1 hr 27 mins*

Now you can make sense of subjects, predicates, and clauses! In this fourth program in our series, you'll learn the foolproof ways to write sentences that are correct grammatically and convey your ideas effectively. You'll learn exactly how independent and dependent clauses should be combined to form the four types of sentence structures. Plus, you'll learn how to recognize - and avoid - sentence fragments and run-on sentences!

### **Upgrade Your Writing 5: Building Paragraphs**

*1 hr 8 mins*

A well-written paragraph is one that is logical, unified, detailed, and coherent. In this fifth program in our series, you'll learn the nuts and bolts or writing powerful paragraphs. You'll discover the secrets or using topic sentences, supporting sentences, and concluding sentences to form paragraphs that keep your readers' interest and get your ideas across clearly, concisely, and creatively!

### **Upgrade Your Writing 6: Connections & Transitions**

*1 hr 22 mins*

Linking devices are a writer's best friend: they help your readers follow your train of thought and recognize the logic underlying your ideas. In this sixth program in our series, you'll learn the best ways to connect related concepts, emphasize key points, and transition gracefully from one thought to the next. You'll discover the secrets of giving your writing a smooth, flowing style that will make it easy to read and easy to follow!

### **Upgrade Your Writing 7: Introductions & Conclusions**

*1 hr 11 mins*

A well-written introduction captivates your readers, while a well-written conclusion leaves them satisfied and convinced. In this seventh program in our series, you'll discover proven strategies for effectively "framing" your writing. You'll learn to lead with introductions that are engaging and articulate and close with conclusions that are memorable and thought-provoking - so your writing starts strong and ends strong!

## Upgrade Your Writing 8: Expressing Yourself Creatively

1 hr 23 mins

Now all students - even those who might consider themselves uncreative or uninspired - can express their personalities through writing. In this eighth program in our series, you'll analyze excerpts from classic poems and short stories to learn proven techniques for making your words more compelling, original, and creative. Plus, you'll learn how to "spice up" your writing with powerful language, colorful imagery, and imaginative storytelling!

## Upgrade Your Writing 9: Improving Your Vocabulary

1 hr 29 mins

Like it or not, your readers may make judgments about you based on the vocabulary that you use in your writing. In this ninth program in our series, you'll learn easy-to-use techniques that will help you expand your vocabulary! You'll learn how to use context clues, word histories, prefixes, roots, and suffixes to decipher unknown words - as well as proven strategies for using, pronouncing, and memorizing the new words you learn!

## Upgrade Your Writing 10: Avoiding Common Mistakes

1 hr 13 mins

Spelling mistakes, misplaced commas, misused words - these are just a few of the errors that can distract your readers and create a negative impression of your writing ability. In this final program in our series, you'll learn effective strategies for improving your command of grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation. You'll learn how to fulfill the requirements of your assignment and polish your finished product so it shines!

**The DVD course is available for home and educational use free of charge.  
Please contact the ARC for more information.**

Each part of the DVD series includes a study guide, which is available online at [www.videoaidedinstruction.com](http://www.videoaidedinstruction.com).

For downloading the PDF you will need a code, which you can find on the DVD and the DVD box.



ARC at Kaisa House  
P.O.Box 53 (Fabianinkatu 30)  
00014 University of Helsinki  
Finland

Telephone: +358-50-448 5704

