

Striving To Improve



Writing Book 1

**For students aged 11 - 15 years who are
underachieving at their year level.**



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Teachers' Notes

Writing Book 1 is part of the *Striving To Improve* series which is targeted at children aged between 11 and 15 years who are struggling to meet the expected requirements specified by the Australian Curriculum for their age group.

The children who you teach may be struggling with their school work because they have been diagnosed with learning difficulties such as ADHD or dyslexia. They may be struggling because of social factors which have resulted in them missing a lot of school. Whatever the reason, this book will help students begin to write more clearly, accurately and confidently.

Activities in this book are linked to the Australian Curriculum for Years 5 and 6, so children feel that what is being asked of them is actually achievable. To make the tasks more manageable, they have been broken down into small parts which gives each student the opportunity to process one idea at a time. Time limits have been either abandoned or made flexible for students.

With this book you can prevent those students who have been left behind from regressing any further, and help them to feel that they too can be successful at school.

SAMPLE

* Prefixes 1



A prefix is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. For example, the prefix *pre*, meaning *before*, can be added to the word *heat*, to make the new word *preheat*, meaning to heat beforehand. When adding a prefix, it is not necessary to change the spelling of the base word.

* TASK A Look at the prefixes and their meanings below.

Pre: means *before*, such as *preschool* and *prearrange*.

Un: changes the meaning of a word to its opposite, such as *unemployed* and *undo*.

Re: means *again*, such as *redo*, *revisit* and *review*.

Semi: means *half* or *partly*, such as *semicircle* and *semiconscious*.

* TASK B Highlight the prefix in each word below, then write a sentence for each prefixed word.

preschool: _____

prearrange: _____

unemployed: _____

undo: _____

redo: _____

revisit: _____

review: _____

semicircle: _____

semiconscious: _____

* Suffixes 5

★ TASK Add suffixes to the words below.

☆ Add *ing*

A

stop	→	stopping
drip	→	
end	→	
brew	→	
mow	→	

☆ Add *ing*

B

skip	→	skipping
stew	→	
cram	→	
hop	→	
jar	→	

☆ Add *er*

C

win	→	winner
fit	→	
shop	→	
dream	→	
swim	→	

☆ Add *er*

D

jog	→	jogger
pour	→	
paint	→	
run	→	
stir	→	

☆ Add *ed*

E

drop	→	dropped
shrug	→	
buzz	→	
star	→	
spot	→	

☆ Add *ed*

F

scare	→	scared
ease	→	
bomb	→	
fill	→	
kill	→	

* Unusual Plurals

* TASK A

Write down the plural of each word below. You may need to use your dictionary.

man: _____

ox: _____

child: _____

appendix: _____

fungus: _____

oasis: _____

mouse: _____

curriculum: _____

tooth: _____

focus: _____

** There is no rule to cover these plurals - that's why they are referred to as 'unusual'.*

* TASK B

Next, look at the words below. Are they singular or plural?

fish: _____

innings: _____

deer: _____

species: _____

** These words are also unusual, this time because they have the same form for singular and plural.*

* TASK C

As a class, make a list of other unusual plurals.



Challenge:

How many small words can you make from each big word below? You can use the letters in any order, but you can only use each letter once. Write on the back of this sheet.

appendix children mouse innings

Compare your answers with others in your class.

* Proper Nouns



A proper noun is a word that always has a capital letter and is the name of a specific person, place or thing.

Example: **Mary** and **John** ran to the **Riverlea** bus stop.

* TASK A

Write the names of some countries (proper nouns) that start with the letters below.

A	C	M	A
I	J	B	L

Choose three of the proper nouns above and write one fact about each.

Proper Noun	Fact
<u>Australia</u>	<i>Australia is a very large country.</i>

* TASK B

Write the titles of five books that you have read and five films that you have seen. Remember to use capital letters because they are all proper nouns.

Book Titles	Film Titles

* TASK C

Names of streets are all proper nouns. Create some street names below, then write a sentence about each.

Example: *Silver Lane – We walked slowly along Silver Lane.*

_____ Road	_____
_____ Avenue	_____
_____ Place	_____
_____ Crescent	_____
_____ Street	_____
_____ Lane	_____

* Verbs 1



A verb is an action or doing word. Every sentence must contain a verb or it does not make sense.

Examples: The child ran. The children play. The birds flew.

* TASK A Add a verb (doing word) to each noun (naming word) below.

Examples: children play people walk cats purr

birds: _____ plants: _____ snakes: _____

lions: _____ baby: _____ rain: _____

doors: _____ wind: _____ sisters: _____

* TASK B Complete the sentences. Include suitable verbs.

When the _____

Suddenly the _____

* TASK C Circle the correct verb in each sentence, then write a new sentence using one of the verbs not circled. Underline the verb in your sentence.

The teenager (eats / drinks / talks) on the telephone.

The old car (runs / slips / skips) off the wet road.

The children's choir (rings / sits / song) at the hospital.

* TASK D Write eight verbs.

* TASK E Choose three verbs from your list above and use each one in a question. Underline the verbs that you use.

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

* Adjectives



An adjective describe a noun. In English, an adjective usually comes before the noun.

Example: The **small** boy went for a ride on his **new** bike.

* TASK A Write a suitable adjective before each noun.

A _____ morning. A _____ record. The _____ towel.
 A _____ day. The _____ guitar. A _____ table.
 The _____ horse. A _____ shirt. A _____ book.

* TASK B Find and write an adjective that could be used with each listed noun. E.g. wooden shelter.

_____ string _____ bottle
 _____ shop _____ shoes
 _____ picture _____ section

Use three of the adjectives and nouns above in questions. E.g. Why was the wooden shelter built?

Question 1: _____
 Question 2: _____
 Question 3: _____

* TASK C Find and write four adjectives that could describe each noun below. Example: busker: young, small, tall, cheerful

Noun	Adjectives			
child				
monkey				
mattress				
candle				
terrace				

* Comparative and Superlative Adjectives 1

Comparative adjectives are used to make comparisons between two things/people. Superlative adjectives are used to make comparisons between two or more things/people. If we compare three girls who are all fast runners, we need adjectives to describe how fast each girl is.

Example:

1. *The girls are fast runners. (Adjective – positive form.)*
2. *Mary is faster than Betty. (Adjective – comparative used to compare two things.)*
3. *Ida is the fastest of all. (Adjective – superlative used when more than two things are compared.)*

*** TASK A** Complete the table. (Some words will change, others will need accompanying by another word.)

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
neat	neater	neatest
small		
pretty		
large		
happy		
bad		
much		
far		
playful		
attractive		
famous		
comfortable		

*** TASK B** Write two sentences each showing the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives.

COMPARATIVE ...

SUPERLATIVE ...
