

Welcome



When many people write, they struggle and suffer. Perhaps you are one of them: If so, this book is for you.

Or perhaps you love to write and want to get better at it. This book is for you, too.

Or perhaps you long to explore the world of “creative writing” but aren’t sure where to begin. This book is for you as well.

This book is a guide to the basics of writing—a very different kind of guide from other writing books. It will not give you strategies for getting published, nor will it show you techniques for digging deep into your psyche. It will not teach you grammar or how to write a best-selling novel. Instead it will show you how to develop certain basic and essential skills that all writers need, whether they are just beginning to write or have gotten blocked or confused somewhere along the way.

What sets this book apart is that it sees writing as a certain kind of work, work that *anyone* can learn how to do, and to do well. You don’t need some magical quality called “talent” or “inspiration”; you need *skills*. Unfortunately, these skills are rarely taught in school, or even in most writing workshops. So when many people sit down to write, they are held back because they simply don’t have the skills they need. And then they usually blame themselves: *I don’t have any talent. I must be stupid.* But

