

MB's Writing Practice Guide

Incorporate a little writing into your study schedule will make a great contribution to your speed of acquisition. Let's start off with the benefits of writing.

Why Writing Helps

Writing is slow

Unlike speaking, you can take as much time as you need to formulate sentences correctly. As a result, you make less mistakes, and therefore less chance of creating bad habits.

Writing is more relaxed

As a bonus benefit from being slow, you also don't have the pressure that comes with speaking in front of people. Nobody is waiting for you to finish your thought in an accurate and timely manner, nor do you need to take into account the age/culture/sensibilities of the person you are writing to (because it's you!).

Writing is personal

You can really explore your personal thoughts and feelings when you write, as you are (unless you choose to do otherwise) writing to yourself and nobody else. When you are producing things on a very personal level, the process naturally becomes more engaging and rewarding.

Writing is permanent

Writing stays right there on your computer, on social media, or in your notebook forever, which makes it perfect for benchmarking your progress. You can build up a record of all of your writing and look back occasionally at how far you've come. You can also get corrections on writing that can be examined, and reviewed later.

Writing activates vocabulary

When you formulate thoughts carefully and then write them out in Chinese, you are activating and reinforcing your (largely unconscious) knowledge of vocabulary and grammar you've developed thus far. With consistent writing practice, you will find that the right words come to you in conversation easier. This is It's possible that writing is even more effective than speaking for doing this.

Some Powerful Writing Tips

Use these writing activities

Most of these speaking activities can be easily transformed into highly engaging writing practice you can do alone or with your tutor.

Write little, and often

Just do one sentence or paragraph when you have a few minutes free. Quality and frequency beats quantity and duration every time.

Get personal

As mentioned above, writing is inherently more personal in nature so take advantage of that. Write a journal in Chinese or post your thoughts on Chinese social media.

Aim for zero mistakes

When you want to use a word in a sentence and you aren't sure exactly how it's used, then check Pleco or YouDao dictionary for some example sentences. The less mistakes you make, the less bad habits you will develop.

Get corrections

This is obviously where your tutor or language exchange partner comes in handy. Don't just look for grammatical errors, also get ideas on how to communicate in a more succinct and natural way. Check out Hinative for fast and free corrections.

Create flashcards

Take your newly corrected sentence and make a flashcard out of it. Doing this will build up a deck of super personal (and therefore unforgettable) grammar cards.

Use writing apps

These apps really help you to relax and focus on the writing task at hand. Our top recommendations are **iAwriter** and **Ommwriter**.

Write by hand

This just feels awesome to do. Although it takes longer and is more physically taxing, it really seems to activate words more effectively.

*“There is no rule on how to write. Sometimes it comes easily and perfectly: sometimes it’s like drilling rock and then blasting it out with charges.” ~ **Ernest Hemingway***