



Dear Friends,

I am very grateful for my husband, Bob, who works very hard at the formatting of Applied Grammar. He spends hours checking my work and making sure spacing is correct and anchored so that when we print, the words don't move around. If you happen to get a book which has a problem, please feel free to contact us.

We have finished the workbook for Elementary II and have fixed a few bugs with the teacher book as well. You will find definitions to each of the subordinating conjunctions as well as the conjunctive adverbs in the new workbook. I hesitate to put them into the teacher book because it just takes up space. You can let me know what your preferences are on that.

Life is very busy with trying to get the

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### News & Events

#### Hear ye, Hear ye!

The workbook for Elementary II is complete and ready for sale. The Elementary II Teacher Book has had some quirks "fixed."

WE are taking e-mails for those who would like a **free total set of Applied Grammar for Christmas**. Let your friends know about this drawing if they are interested.

Work on the Language Lessons for Autistic children is underway. There are a lot of plans for puppets, lessons on DVD, songs for everyday vocabulary

gardens put to bed for the winter. I am awaiting a reply from an adult day care facility concerning a job for which I have applied. The economy takes its toll, and we must do what we can to make the best of it.

We are holding another drawing for a full set of Applied Grammar. You can send the e-mails to me via [info@applied-grammar.com](mailto:info@applied-grammar.com). Ask your friends if they would like to enter. They will receive a newsletter in their e-mail as a confirmation. We will place them on our newsletter list if they so desire. The drawing will be held after Thanksgiving 2012.

Blessings to you all.

Bob and Gail

You can find past copies of the newsletter [here](#).

We also have a [page](#) with links to articles that we find interesting.

and some resource materials for non verbal children. I can't wait to pull it all together and get it out to you.

The handwriting course is underway. It will be called **Personal Penmanship** and begins with pre-handwriting exercises for toddlers.

## Featured Article

### Why Use a "Think Pad?"

The use of a "Think Pad" was first introduced to me from a video course I took from Indiana University Teacher Training. In this class they showed how use of a "Think Pad" accomplishes the following goals.



1. The "Think Pad" strategy forces the child to use their writing to express their thoughts when answering a question.
2. Because the answers are relatively short with breaks in between, they help the child develop the muscles used for writing without causing cramping and tedium.
3. When a child is told the answer to a question, then writes it down, it forces his/her brain to try to recall what was said and helps to solidify the information in the short term memory.
4. Seeing his/her answer on paper helps him/her to assess his/her own memory. An immediate repetition of the correct answer from the instructor helps the child to self correct what he/she wrote down. When a child corrects his/her own mistake in this way a wrong answer is erased from his/her brain more quickly and replaced with the correct answer.
5. For children with attention deficit, this is an exceptionally great method for keeping them on task. If they must write down what you said every three minutes, they must try to attend. The back and forth between listening and writing answers for responses keeps the lesson moving with shorter periods of *just* listening or *just* writing.
6. All children (and adults) benefit from using a "think pad" while listening and responding. This is a tool for "teaching" someone how to pay attention and be an active listener. When used in the classroom, this tool can be used to assess classroom participation. When participation and active listening are increased, grades go up.
7. When a child gets off task, simply ask them to move his/her chair back from the table or desk. Most children simply hate being told that they may not write on the "Think Pad" and that their class participation grade will

go down.

8. I think this strategy can be applied in the home setting as well. If you do not grade, you can still reward or give consequences for a child's willingness or unwillingness to pay attention. You may need to reward for even small improvements if you have a very hyperactive child. Be careful not to punish for actions that the child cannot control.