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Dear Friends,

The holiday season is here, and this coming week we will be welcoming home our children whom we haven't seen in person for the last 18 months. How wonderful a blessing is our family.

Bob has almost finished the new roof, and I have settled into full time work again. Life is very busy. Let's not forget to stop and take time to do the really important things amidst the hustle and bustle of our lives.

Blessings to all of you now and in the new year.

If you do not wish to continue receiving this, simply click in the unsubscribe link at the top or bottom of the newsletter. Please let us know what your pleasure is, and we will happily serve you to the best of our ability. Thank you so much for your orders and for letting others know about this wonderful way to teach grammar and writing.

Sincerely,
Gail Brubaker
Applied Grammar

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News & Events

Hear ye, Hear ye!

WE have registered for the HOME convention in Maine, the Midwest Home School Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, the CHAP convention in Pennsylvania, and the Southeast Home School Expo in Atlanta, Georgia. I'll keep you informed as we add more.

We will not be able to attend SETHSA, in Houston, Texas this year because my student, Michael, will be graduating on that weekend, and I wouldn't miss that for anything.

This High School level is coming along. I plan to begin the first typing by the end of the year.

To ensure that you know when it is available, sign up to continue to receive our F-Newsletter. You



might also want to [sign up for e-tutoring](#) so that your student gets the benefit of having someone new edit and correct their work, as well as give them written assignments.

Featured Article

Why do Kids Struggle with Writing?



Writing is a skill which entails many parts of the body and mind working together. The brain must be able to visualize what to write about. It must locate the words in the stored memory that need to be used to describe what is being visualized. Then it must put the words together into the code which we call proper English. This requires spelling, word order, descriptive words, verb tense changes, and eye-hand memory and coordination to physically get the words onto the paper.

Children may struggle on any one or several of the skills needed to write. There are not many children who can tell you why they hate to write, but my experience has been that one or more of the foundational skills, or the coordination of those skills need more development. Children generally love doing what they are good at and hate or avoid that which they find difficult.

The first step to helping your child love to write is to find out which of the foundational skills are weak. In this month's news letter, We will focus on visualizing.

Visualizing is being able to imagine moving pictures in one's thoughts. These can be memories, or created images. There are some exercises you can ask your child to do to find out if your child struggles with this skill. These same games and exercises can help to strengthen this skill.

1. Playing memory card games.
2. Close your eyes, picture a person (you know well), and change them one characteristic at a time in your mind's eye. Example:
 - A. picture Mom
 - B. Now turn her hair green
 - C. Now make it grow straight up
 - D. Now make her arms grow longer
 - E. Now make her legs grow shorter
 - F. Now draw a picture that matches what you pictured in your head
3. Play the what is missing or different in the picture game. (Highlights magazine has these) Or you can blindfold your student and move things in a room around or take something out. Then remove the blindfold and have them try to find out what is different.
4. Hide an object in a room while the student is outside the room. Have them come in and try to find the hidden object. Clap loud when they are "hot", softly when they are "cold." Then try it blindfolded. They have to imagine what things are where in the room to be able to "look" for the hidden object.

5. Go for a "grammar walk." Find nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases happening. Write them down on your folder inserts (see Applied Grammar). Then come back to your desk and write about what you saw using your folder inserts as memory cues.

6. Try to draw a map of a familiar room without actually being there (Grandma's kitchen. the bathroom)

7. Show your child pictures of simple designs. Have them look for a few seconds and then try to draw from memory or describe it using words. (These MUST be simple to start with so that they are successful As they get better at this, increase the difficulty.)

If your child has difficulty with these exercises, then visualizing may be a problem and playing these games will increase their ability to visualize. This will help them when trying to come up with an idea to write about.

Next month I will discuss the skill of word retrieval

Success with Applied Grammar

I was a new homeschooling mom and was having a very difficult time trying to teach grammar to my kids. We needed something that was not so hard to comprehend for all of us. I found Applied Grammar and figured I would try it. After getting off the phone with Gail, I felt so excited about this new way of teaching grammar. Once the kids and I started, the frustration was completely gone. The colors and the structure were so easy to follow and understand. It has been five years since I first used this program. My two eldest are now in high school, and we still use the cards and the posters are still on the walls. They don't come down. Whenever there is difficulty in understanding a sentence, we take out our highlighters and get to work. I would recommend Applied Grammar to anyone.

Leshia Murray
Gaithersburg, MD