

The Webscout

By writers for writers

“11 tips to write better”, “10 fast ways to become a better writer”, and “5 unconventional ways to become a better writer”. These are examples of what a Google search for “write better” gives you. Some read quite reasonably, some are rather awkward. Anyway, several similar pieces of advice drew my attention. The essence was as simple as: Read as much as you can to become a better writer. This brought me to the point where I thought that a collection of blogs created by writers for writers and intended to improve writing or related skills might be of interest to you.

<http://write-better.blogspot.de/>

This blog is run by LousyWriter.com, an online resource for writing skills and plain English writing. The blog is not limited to scientific or medical writing but addresses writing of all types, from business writing to speech writing. You will find a wide range of tips to improve your skills. Several blog entries are dedicated to plain English use and clarity. Others focus on punctuation, grammar, style, and readability.

<http://clear-writing-with-mr-clarity.blogspot.de/>

The title is rather self-explanatory. Unfortunately, the blog has not been updated for a while. Nevertheless, it is a wonderful resource. The blog entries are based on real-world examples of clear and unclear writing. Each entry ends with a take-home message that summarises what you can learn from the given writing example.

www.dailywritingtips.com/

Behind this blog is a team of writers and editors. Their backgrounds range from writing for new media and fiction writing to scientific writing. The blog is updated daily with entries on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary. You can browse by category or by doing a keyword search. Some of the tips I do not agree with. They probably apply to fields other than medical writing. This holds true for all blogs on general writing. So always take some time to reflect on the advice you read.

www.grammarly.com/blog/

Grammarly is the name of an online proof-reading tool. The organisation behind Grammarly also runs a very broad-ranging blog

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with advice on grammar and spelling, but also with entries on language, vocabulary, general writing tips, and trends in writing.

www.publicationcoach.com/blog/

The woman behind “Publication Coach” is Daphne Gray-Grant, who offers writing coaching, training, and workshops. Her blog is full of helpful tips, not only for medical writers. Several entries are dedicated to the question of how to approach writing projects in order to avoid stress and to be effective as a writer.

www.healthwriterhub.com/blog

Health Writer Hub was created by Michelle Guillemard, a freelance health writer and the President of the Australasian Medical Writers

Association. What started as a blog on health writing is now a great resource that offers courses and online training. The blog section is updated regularly. You will find general writing advice and software suggestions that could ease your life. One series of four entries is dedicated to different types of clinical evidence. This blog is highly recommended to medical writers.

www.apostropheabuse.com

The misuse of apostrophes is pervasive. Apostrophe Abuse presents examples from all around the world. I especially like “top 3rd level feeder school”, which was found outside a school. Although this blog is not primarily designed to help you become a better writer, I just had to share it with you. If you ever come across an example which you think is worth posting, you can submit a photo to the site.

Did you like this Webscout article? Do you have any questions or suggestions? Please feel free to get in touch and share your thoughts.

