



Brush up your writing skills

Entry requirements for many jobs, careers and education programmes include a pass in GCSE English (at grade C or above) or an equivalent level qualification. Even if you don't need a qualification, improving your written skills will help to widen your job opportunities and increase your confidence. In addition, if you're thinking of setting up your own business, you'll need good written communication skills if you want to appear professional. Use the links here to go straight to a wide range of helpful resources.

If you don't need a qualification, but just want to brush up your skills, these are some of the best websites providing FREE online help

[BBC - Learning - English learning resources and online courses](#) provides information and links to other sites providing on-line help, including [BBC - GCSE Bitesize – English Topics](#) an interactive revision resource for GCSE English including Writing to analyse, review and comment; Writing to argue, persuade and advise; Writing to imagine, explore and entertain; Writing to inform, explain and describe and a Mock exam.

[British Council](#) – although this site is aimed at overseas students it could be very helpful if you are looking for help with correct use of written or spoken English. The section on [English Grammar](#) has interactive exercises. [The Business and Work](#) section has exercises and videos to help with good use of English in work related situations.

[Open Learn](#) provides free access to the some Open University skills courses, including [Essay and reporting writing skills](#) and [What is good writing?](#)

[Move On](#) you can test your basic literacy skills online here and prepare for the [National Certificate in Literacy Level 1 and Level 2 tests](#). If you don't need the certificate this could also be useful for building up your confidence before starting a GCSE course.

If you do need a qualification

National Careers Service

Use the [course search facility](#) to find a suitable course near where you live or work. Type 'English Language' into the Course box and enter your **post code**. Use the Advanced Search link that's located just under the search box if you want to refine your search to say how far you would be prepared to travel and whether you want part time or full time courses.

Teacher Training

In the [Literacy skills tests](#) section of the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website you will find information and practice materials to help you prepare for the QTS skills test in literacy. This test must be taken by all trainees seeking to gain QTS regardless of the subjects and age ranges which they are training to teach.