



# WRITING WORKSHOP

OUC  
Class 1

# Course Objectives

- The goal is simple: improve your reading, writing, and speaking abilities in English.
- How are we going to accomplish that?
  - *Proficiency*
    - Vocabulary
      - *each class I will give you 3-5 words for you to memorize and practice using*
    - Writing Exercises
      - *we will practice writing about fun topics and also revising old essays to see how you can improve*
    - Topical Lectures
      - *this is the boring part where I drone on for 30-45 mins and tell you about how English works*
  - *Fluency*
    - Let's chat! Let's watch TV & movies!
      - *the best way to improve & refine your English fluency is the listen to natives speak!*
    - Let's practice!
      - *I will assign you two passages; one will be the same every class, so you can track your improvement, and the other will be new so you can practice saying new things every day!*

# The Basics: Writing 101

- Grammar – set of structural rules governing the composition of clauses, phrases, and words in any given natural language
  - *i.e. The way in which words are put together to form proper sentences.*
  - *Broadly speaking, includes syntax*
- Syntax – The study of sentences and their structure; sentence construction and word order
  - *External economy of words (word order, agreement); nuance structure of sentences*
  - *Syntax is what gives a majority of English writers a headache*
  - *Understanding and improving syntax is the first step in becoming a better writer*
- “Grammar rules syntax.”
  - *Grammar provides rules and structure*
  - *Syntax is the act of structuring*

# The Basics: Syntax

- A word on syntax...
- When it comes to essay and journalistic writing (expository and persuasive), what differentiates a good writer from a great writer is not creativity, it's economy. Creativity is for novelists and narratives; it's the bonus cherry-on-top. Creativity is awesome, but it'll always be second place to economy.
- For every sentence, you should be thinking about:
  - *Is there a better way to structure this sentence?*
    - How are the independent and dependent clauses related within this sentence?
    - Are related clauses grouped in a logical fashion?
  - *Is there a way to make this sentence shorter?*
    - Does every word serve a purpose?
    - Can the same purpose be achieved with fewer words?
- The goal should be to make the sentence as clear and concise as possible

# Daily Vocabulary 8/31

## ■ Parameter. *Noun.*

- *a numerical or other measurable factor forming one of a set that defines a system or sets the conditions of its operation*
- *a limit or boundary which defines the scope of a particular process or activity*

*Example: The investigation stayed within the parameters set by the court.*

## ■ Substantial. *Adj.*

- *of considerable importance, size, or worth*
- *concerning the essentials of something*

*Example: Substantial advances have been made in the field of science, but much more remains to be learned.*

## ■ Posit. *Transitive Verb.*

- *a statement which is made on the assumption that it will prove to be true*

*Example: the Confucian view posits a perfectible human nature*

# Homework

- Write 5 unique sentences using each of the 3 vocabulary words from today. We will review the sentences during our next class.
- Wechat me a copy of an old academic essay or paper (one to two paragraphs only) you have written. Bring a paper copy to our next class as well.



Scan the QR code to add me on WeChat

ANY  
QUESTIONS?  
WECHAT ME!