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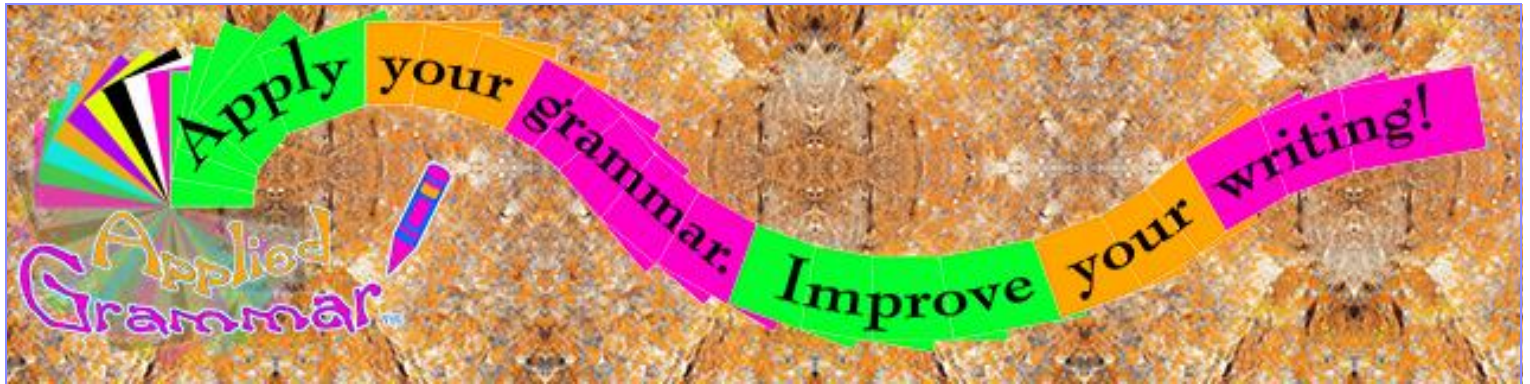
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Dear Friends,

It is raining as I write this, and Bob and I are both fighting colds. We are busily printing books and brochures; preparing for the start of the convention season. This is an exciting time as we anticipate sales, but also new friendships made.

The High School Level is complete, and we are sure that you will like the format, the flexibility, and the thoroughness of this product. Because we have not used other's work which would have cost many dollars in copy right fees, we have been able to keep the cost well within line of the other books. This will allow you to spend more on tutoring for editing and critiquing of your students' works which is the best method for fine-tuning writing skills.

Sincerely,
Gail and Bob Brubaker
Applied Grammar

Bob and I continue to work together to bring to you the best services that we can. Because we are a home business, we cannot get to every convention. However, if you have used Applied Grammar and have found it to be a great resource for you and your children, we would be delighted to have you represent us at a convention near you. We would be paying you to make sure that Applied Grammar gets a good representation in your area. Please contact Gail and Bob at info@applied-grammar.com for more information if you are interested in making some money to help off-set your schooling expenses.

In This Issue

[News & Events](#)

[Featured Article](#)

[Meet our new E-Tutor](#)

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. We will also be going to Mobile, Alabama and Enoch in New Jersey.

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.

The High School Level is complete, and we are very excited to find out how well you like it. Please look for us at a convention near you, so you can check it out. If we are not at a convention near you, and you would like to have a copy to look at for a limited amount of time. please check with

us. We can figure out a way for you to work with a group to check out our materials.

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.

The next project is Applied Grammar especially for children in the Autistic Spectrum. The name we chose was already taken, so we are currently trying to come up with another name for it.

Featured Article

Preparing Your Child for Composition



When a child composes a written work, it is a matter of putting thoughts onto paper. The thoughts, most assuredly, have to come first. IF a child has nothing to write about, then they will struggle with composition and writing. Retelling is an important tool for preparing your child to be able to have something to write about. Here are some suggestions for preparing your child for composition.

1. Retell the day before going to bed. Have your children tell what their day was like; in sequence as much as possible. This will connect the experiences of the day with retelling a story. You can use this to reinforce any pertinent lessons of the day, or any successes that your child had. It is a good spring board for praying about the day and putting it aside for a good night's sleep.
2. Retell family stories. This give children a connection to their parents' and grandparents' lives, and also creates a love for story telling. You will be modeling the retelling strategy which is imperative for writing preparation.
3. Ask your students to retell a movie or a book that they just seen or read. This is all oral practice for something that they will all have to do on paper at some point. Try to get them to focus on the main events, and save the juicy details for later.
4. When retelling a story, focus on what people did, rather than what they said. This will help your students to focus on main events.
5. Take a story that they are familiar with, write a sequence of events on note cards or type it and cut them apart. Mix them up and have students put the story in the correct sequence. This is a pre-cursor to book reports. This is also a good method for studying for essay questions, or anything in content material that has a sequence of steps. Some examples would be the story of Christopher Columbus, the story of Jamestown, the American Revolution, the life-cycle of an organism, the digestive system, long division, or finding and graphing a slope. I could keep going, but I think you get the point. (A good study strategy is taught while doing this as well.)

6. Create a made up story by taking turns adding a part to the story. These get hilarious, and it's a good way to help creativity flow. It helps students to understand the idea of fiction.

7. Write a statement on the board. Come up with as many different ways to say the exact same thing. Children as old as 10 and 11 years of age still do not quite understand that it doesn't have to be word for word the same to actually SAY the same thing. This strategy also helps to develop the voice of your little writer, as well as teach them how to use words as a tool.

This strategy is also good for teaching nuance in the way we use our words.

Many of these strategies can be done when the child is still really little, way before they even begin to write. It will prepare them for the writing process in a fun and engaging way. But don't stop there, children of all ages can benefit from these strategies. Using words can be fun.

Next month I will tell you some more strategies for writing practice.

Meet Our New E-Tutor



We are happy to announce that Dulcimer Hope Brubaker has agreed to be an E-Tutor to help Mrs. Brubaker with the increase of students we are expecting from the High School Level.

Dulcimer Hope Brubaker is a freelance writer and editor with a bachelor's degree in English. Having served as the editor for the Brethren in Christ Church of North America, she has also worked as a staff writer for Brady Communications, a high-profile creative firm in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Messiah College in Grantham, Pa.