

I'm not a robot



Great writing 5 3rd edition

Given article text here I've always been fascinated by languages and linguistics. Growing up in New Orleans, Louisiana, I was immersed in a unique dialect of English that blended with the local cuisine – gumbo, red beans and rice, and jambalaya are still favorites today. As a child, I noticed distinct differences in our way of speaking and eating. My dialect even had its own set of phrases, like "beaucoup" (the neutral ground) and "passing by" (meaning: to stop and visit). This exposure made me attuned to language nuances from an early age. I'm grateful for the many dedicated teachers who have shaped my educational journey. My high school French teacher, Mrs. Emily de Montluzin, inspired me with her passion and approach. Her teaching methods sparked my interest in languages, and I've been fortunate enough to continue learning six languages over the years. My language learning journey began with French, followed by Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, and most recently, German. While some languages were learned through traditional classroom settings, others came from practicing with native speakers or watching TV shows like "Dynasty" with Malay subtitles. I've also had the opportunity to teach English as a Second/Foreign Language in various countries, including Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Kuwait, and Japan. In addition to teaching, I've conducted teacher training workshops globally, sharing my expertise with educators from Argentina to Uzbekistan. I'm certified in secondary education (English & French) and regularly present at international conferences on TESOL topics. My passion for languages and education is driven by a desire to make learning accessible and engaging for all students. I vividly remember the smell of fresh worksheets wafting through our classrooms, a nostalgic scent that still transports me back to my childhood. My classmates would often get excited about receiving new handouts, but I, being the bookworm that I was, would scrutinize every detail - from the layout to the language used. Little did I know that this early interest in grammar and vocabulary would pave the way for a career as a textbook writer. Today, I'm proud to have published 75 books with renowned publishers such as the University of Michigan Press and Oxford University Press. My background in English, Secondary Education, French, and TESOL has equipped me with a deep understanding of language acquisition and instructional design. My research focuses on vocabulary development and best teaching practices, particularly in areas like grammar instruction, error correction, and second-language writing. As I look back, it's amusing to think that my fondness for worksheets - even the ones with lingering chemical smells - ultimately led me to create educational materials that help learners become confident writers. If you're interested in using my resources or would like to collaborate on a project, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your input and feedback are invaluable to me! Born and raised on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I've always been fascinated by language and its unique dialects. Growing up in New Orleans, Louisiana, surrounded by the same cultural influences as the city, I quickly learned that our way of speaking is distinct from others. Terms like "beaucoup" (a lot) and "neutral ground" became part of my everyday vocabulary, making me more aware of language nuances from a young age. My passion for teaching was sparked by dedicated educators, especially my high school French teacher, Mrs. Emily de Montluzin, who made learning languages engaging and impactful. With six languages under my belt – including French, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Malay, and German – I've come to understand the importance of good teaching and effective language acquisition. My experiences as a language learner have taught me valuable lessons about overcoming challenges in isolation, as seen during my recent online course in German. As a seasoned educator with over 40 years of experience in the US and abroad, I've taught English, French, and Spanish to students in various countries, including Japan where I once taught Spanish in Japanese. In addition to teaching, I've also conducted workshops for teachers worldwide, from Argentina to Uzbekistan, and have presented at numerous international conferences, sharing my expertise in language education with hundreds of K12 teachers every summer through the Arkansas Department of State's program. I distinctly remember the pungent scent of chemicals and worksheets from that fateful day, which sparked an enduring passion for learning within me. As my classmates reveled in their worksheet-induced euphoria, I was fixated on dissecting the design and layout of the handouts. The teacher's matching activity, with terms on one side and definitions on the other, seemed like a masterstroke. However, I couldn't shake off the curiosity about the missing blanks and the specific words chosen for the activity. My affinity for worksheets and workbooks has only grown stronger over time. Even today, as an author of English language materials, I relish sharing my passion with readers. A little-known fact is that my academic journey began at a young age, culminating in publications across multiple prestigious presses. My academic background boasts a BA in English with minors in Secondary Education and French, an MA in TESOL, and a PhD in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology. My research focus lies in vocabulary development and best teaching practices, with a special emphasis on experimental, quasi-experimental, and case study approaches to grammar instruction, vocabulary acquisition, and error correction in second language writing. Who would have thought that the nostalgic experience of smelling chemicals on worksheets decades ago would lead me to become a textbook author?

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