

DAY 1 – PLAYING WITH WORDS

| WORDS | USE THE WORDS TO CREATE SOME UNUSUAL IMAGES |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. whispering;2. leaves;3. silence;4. enemies;5. skies;6. white;7. eyes | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. shimmering;2. path;3. anger;4. dream;5. door;6. flow;7. sun | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. stalking;2. roots;3. wild;4. murmuring;5. heart;6. dead;7. grief | |

| LEMON | COLD | ORANGE | FAMILY | DIFFICULT |
|-------|------|--------|--------|-----------|
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DAY 1— PLAYING WITH WORDS

EARTH ROARING WAVES ENTICE SCORCHED WRATH
PEACE SMASHING CHAINS TRUTH BARRICADE RADIANT

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Free writing — choose one of the following prompts and free write for 10 minutes using some of the word combinations you wrote today. Focus on word choice.

Prompts: 1) Darkness; 2) Home; 3) Loneliness; or 4) Nature

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DAY 2 – MAKE IT REAL



Nouns: street, shops, people, advertisements, cars, buildings, umbrellas, bikes, stores, stalls.

Verbs & Adjectives: hot, humid, muggy, sweating, steaming, dripping, burning, bright, glaring, irritation, thirsty.

Cliche to pre-empt: sweating people walked down the burning hot street.

Example phrases: Market stalls drip under the sweating sun.

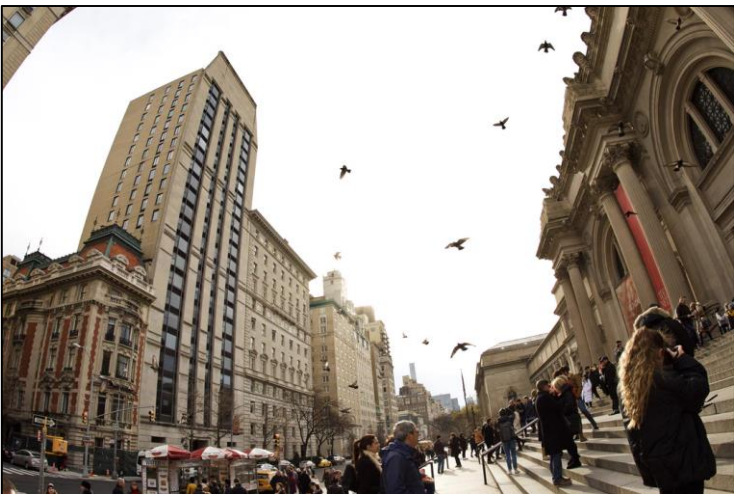


Nouns:

Verbs & Adjectives:

Cliche to pre-empt:

Example phrases:



Nouns:

Verbs & Adjectives:

Cliche to pre-empt:

Example phrases:

NOW THINK ABOUT THE MOOD

DAY 2 – MAKE IT REAL

ADD ATMOSPHERE

1. Choose one of the street images for this exercise.
2. List adjectives and verbs that will help create atmosphere or mood.
3. Write an observational description of the setting and create a sense of atmosphere. Avoid cliché descriptions or weak adjectives and adverbs. Instead hint at the mood with your descriptions.

| Words to create a joyous mood | Words to create a sinister mood |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| | |
| Description showing joyous atmosphere | Description showing sinister atmosphere |
| | |

DAY 3 – BE YOURSELF

APPEARANCE NOTES

He fell in step with her. He was short, fat, pale. He had bad teeth. His hair was dirty... He was wearing blue jeans, a black leather jacket zipped to his throat, a long red wool scarf around his neck, and a Dodgers baseball cap. *Tall Tales from the Mekong Delta* – Kate Braverman

Appearance detail



Deeper significance



Sentence

Big black glasses



Sees everything!



Her thick rimmed black glasses slipped down her nose again, as if she needed a rest from seeing the world in such high definition.



HABITS & ACTIONS NOTES

She was fifteen and she had a quick, nervous giggling habit of craning her neck to glance into mirrors or checking other people's faces to make sure her own was all right. *Where are you going?* Joyce Carol Oates

Habits / Actions



Deeper significance



Sentence

Pen clicking



Bored



She was clicking her pen again, the rapid up and down movement of her thumb seemed to be attempt to make the clock tick faster.



INNER VOICE

Nearly every girl she knew had long hair. She was not one of them. She had short hair and wore it like a badge. No Barbie style for her. She was her own hero. Of course, the stumpy legs, geeky nerdy glasses, and lisp don't 100% shout hero. But hey, she could make it work! *Lou Enstone*

Thoughts topic



Deeper significance



Sentence

Buying coffee



Upbeat, happy



She grinned at the person behind her. Today was the first day of summer: she was going to order an iced coffee. Yum. She grinned some more



DAY 3 – BE YOURSELF

WRITE YOURSELF, YOUR VOICE, EMBRACE THE INNER NARRATIVE

Now that you have a clearer sense of how to describe yourself in writing. Imagine yourself in a series of mundane, everyday situations. The challenge is to share your internal narrative with the reader, that is what will make your writing engaging. It is character = personality that we are drawn to as readers.

Write yourself in each of these situations.

| | |
|---|--|
| Getting out of the house for work in the morning | Asking a stranger for directions |
| | |
| Trying to get through the turnstiles at a rail / underground station / football match | Searching for something in a supermarket / grocery store |
| | |

DAY 4 – ACTION WRITE



| Nouns (for precision) | Adjectives (for detail) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | |
| Verbs (for movement) | Description |
| | |

Sports commentary is one of the best ways to learn to write action. Once you start listening for the words (and not just the sport) you will see that commentators have some of the best verbs in the writing business.

<https://thebiglead.com/2014/02/21/doc-emrick-used-153-words-to-describe-puck-movement-in-the-usa-canada-game/>

<https://thebiglead.com/2013/06/16/doc-emrick-said-pass-53-different-ways-in-game-2-of-the-staney-cup-finals/>

DAY 4 – ACTION WRITE

One key to writing action well is to slow the time down into minute increments (see the fab example by Deon Meyer below). Even the action of tripping over or slipping on something can be slowed down into tiny detail steps. When writing action we should not be afraid of the word “The”. We should also be wary of only using short sentences.

The shot thundered across the beach, an echo of the waves. The lead bullet broke his bottom right incisor, tore through his palate, just above his upper teeth, punched through the lower bone of his eye socket, and broke through the skin just in front of his left ear. He staggered back, then dropped down into a sitting position. Pain shot through his head. The blood dripped warmly down his cheek. His left eye wouldn't focus. But he was alive.

— Deon Meyer, *Dead Before Dying*



Break this moment down in 5 phases:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Brainstorm verbs for each of the 5 phases:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Add nouns and precise adjectives as well:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now it's time to write:

DAY 5 – PLAN IT, WRITE IT

PLAN IT:

Only 30 mins of story time

- Opening – The action is already taking place
- Detail 1 – One small moment to describe in detail
- Detail 2 – Next small moment to describe in detail
- The most interesting thing – what is this?
- Aftermath – the 5 mins after

We love to use this 5 step plan for very short writing (flash fiction).
Over the last few days you have looked at: word choice, writing character, description, and writing action. Today, we are going to put the whole thing together to create a bunch of story plans AND then write a short narrative!

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|---|---|
| <u>The worst first date ever</u> ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ | <u>The search</u> ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ |
| <u>Getting in trouble</u> ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ | <u>Winning</u> ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ |
| <u>Long car journey</u> ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ | <u>Favourite tunes</u> ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ ● _____ |

