



## Five Tools Every Writer Needs with Patricia Charpentier

When a writer sits down to write, he/she consciously or unconsciously brings a toolbox to the table. The contents of that toolbox determine the style, character, and quality of the stories written. Here are five essential tools every writer should always have in that toolbox.

1. **A strong connection to your purpose for writing**

2. **A consistent method(s) to capture thoughts, ideas, memories, etc.**

3. **Reference materials you will use—dictionary, thesaurus, grammar**



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### 4. Memoirs and books about writing

### 5. A community of like-minded people

### 6. A possible next step—a Life Writers membership - <https://lifewriters.us/>

- A membership created to help you succeed built on community, instruction, and accountability.
- Enrollment open through Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET.
- Two membership levels—standard and VIP—and two options—four-month or annual session.
- 100% money-back guarantee within the first thirty (30) days.
- Summer session begins with a kickoff party/orientation on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. ET.

# Five Tools Every Writer Needs Reference List

## Note-taking possibilities (print or online)

- Moleskin notebooks – many retail and online outlets and <https://www.moleskine.com/en-us/shop/notebooks/>
- Evernote - <https://evernote.com/>
- Others include MS OneNote, MS To Do, Apple Notes, Google Keep

## Dictionaries (print or online)

- *Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Oxford English Dictionary, American Heritage Dictionary*
- dictionary.com (online only)
- Urban Dictionary – recommended only for slang - <https://www.urbandictionary.com/>

## Thesaurus (print or online)

- *Merriam-Webster Thesaurus* – print or <https://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus>
- *Roget's International Thesaurus* – print only
- *Emotion Thesaurus* and others - Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi – print and ebooks
- *Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* – print only

**admission** ► **noun** **1** *membership entitles you to free admission: admittance, entry, entrance, right of entry, access, right of access, ingress; entrée.*  
**2** *the admission was \$8: entrance fee, entry charge, cover (charge), ticket.*  
**3** *a written admission of guilt: confession, acknowledgment, mea culpa, acceptance, concession, disclosure, divulgence.*

### USAGE

#### admission, admittance

**Admission** traditionally refers to the price paid for entry or the right to enter (*admission was \$5*), and **admittance** more often refers to physical entry (*we were denied admittance by a large man with a forbidding scowl*). In the sense of 'permission or right to enter,' these words have become almost interchangeable, although *admittance* is more formal and technical.

**aghast** ► **adjective** *eyewitnesses to the explosion were aghast: horrified, appalled, dismayed, thunderstruck, stunned, shocked, staggered; informal flabbergasted.*

### REFLECTIONS

David Auburn

#### aghast

Nothing conveys a horrified reaction better, because the whispery, gasping sound of the word personalizes it, seems to locate the horror in the victim's frozen, ghost-pale face, in their paralyzing intake of breath.

## Five Tools Every Writer Needs Reference List

### Grammar/punctuation resources

- *The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation* – online and print
- *Grammar for Dummies* – Geraldine Woods – print and ebook
- *Painless Grammar* – Rebecca Elliott – print and ebook
- Grammarly – grammar checker – free and paid versions - <https://www.grammarly.com/>
- Other grammar checkers: ProWriting Aid, Ginger, White Smoke
- Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) and most universities have online grammar information
- *Daily Writing Tips* – online – affiliate link: <https://www.dailywritingtips.com/pro/?r=ruu>

### Books about writing

- *The Art of Memoir* – Mary Karr
- *On Writing* – Stephen King
- *100 Ways to Improve Your Writing* – Gary Provost
- *On Writing Well* – William Zinsser

### Memoirs (some of my favorites based on quality of writing)

- *Growing Up* – Russell Baker
- *The Invisible Wall* – Harry Bernstein
- *Ava's Man* – Rick Bragg
- *After Long Silence* – Helen Fremont
- *Between Two Kingdoms* – Suleika Jaouad
- *The Liar's Club* – Mary Karr
- *The Color of Water* – James McBride
- *Educated* – Tara Westover
- *The Glass Castle* – Jeannette Walls
- *This Boy's Life* – Tobias Wolff