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SBA NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2017

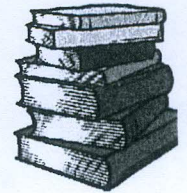
Hello Autumn! It's time to kick some leaves. Daylight Saving is over and the Footie season is here. Soon those ugly patches of dead grass will be covered with ugly patches of dead leaves. Herewith is the first of our seasonal issues of our Newsletter for 2017.

Reading and Writing

What was your first experience of reading a book? Where was it? Who was it that inspired you to take up this habit? The Sumerians were credited with the earliest known written language system over 5000 years ago. They used symbols and pictures to trade their goods by writing on clay tablets. Over the years, the development of writing used papyrus tablets and scrolls. Greco-Roman civilisations developed alphabets. An alphabet is the collection of letters that can spell out words. Our English alphabet was descended from the Latin alphabet that was brought to England by the early Christian missionaries. Monks in the Middle Ages labouriously reproduced sacred texts. The word 'manuscript' came from the Latin word 'manos' which meant 'done by hand.'

A B C D E
 F G H I J
 K L M N O
 P Q R S T
 U V W X Y
 Z

Our own handwriting can be either printed or by using cursive script. All cursive styles are unique and different. Your personal signature is yours to sign a cheque or contract. The advent of the printing press over 500 years ago was one of the most significant events in history in terms of literacy and the spread of knowledge. Grammar, punctuation and spelling provide the rules for our writing. Is technology changing the way we read?



The nature of our writing has been constantly evolving particularly due to the development of new technologies over the centuries. The pen, the printing press, the computer and the mobile phone are all changes that have altered the what and how words are written.

These days we live in the age of twitter and SMS, Google Earth and the e-readers/e-books (electronic books). These are popular, practical and pleasantly cheap. They are so portable with 1000s of books available in one e-reader. As long as the battery is kept charged, it will save paper. As e-readers weigh just a fraction of the weight of just one 'real' book and with coursework being done online, the size and shape of the huge backpacks for students are now being redesigned. Amazon.com now sells more e-books than print books. In changing the way we read, do you wish to face a book or a screen? Some of us still like the touch and smell of paper in 'real' books. Do authors still write their drafts in longhand or use a keyboard? Will technology reduce our ability to spell? As we all know, reading fuels your imagination, deepens your sense of wonder and curiosity. And that life is a journey not a destination, so enjoy the reading ride. Surely, one of the greatest gifts a parent can give to their children is a love of reading. You are reading this now. Where did you first learn to do it? Turn the page.

Ian Shand. SBA Newsletter Editor



