



Budding Writer

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

budding	Beginning to become successful; rising.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: Great things are expected from this budding young actor.</i>

poignant	Touching, evoking sadness.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: She found the romance novel strangely poignant.</i>

sneering	Rude, insulting, disrespectful.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: My uncle always makes sneering comments about my decisions.</i>

wet behind the ears	Inexperienced.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: My new boss is really wet behind the ears.</i>

proofread	To find and correct mistakes in a text before it is printed or put online.
[verb]	<i>Ex: Julia proofreads books for a small publishing company.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Emily: Hey! Nathan, is that you?

Nathan: Hey, Emily! Fancy seeing you here.

Emily: I know, I haven't seen you since college. What are you up to these days?

Nathan: Just working, putting up with my sneering boss who can't take a joke. How about you?

Emily: I'm sort of a budding writer these days.

Nathan: Really? You'd be great at that, Emily!

Emily: I don't know. I'm still pretty wet behind the ears.



Nathan: Oh come on, you've got talent, don't deny it. I used to proofread your college essays.

Emily: Really? What did you think of my essays?

Nathan: Hmm... They were always so poignant and beautifully written.

Emily: Thanks, that's sweet of you to say, Nathan.

Nathan: Have you written anything I might have read recently?

Emily: Only a few articles for the local newspaper. But I'm working on my first novel. It's almost finished.

Nathan: Well when you get it published you should let me know. I'd love to read it.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

proofread

wet behind the ears

budding

poignant

sneering

1. The photograph awakens _____ memories of happier days.
2. I was asked to _____ the website by the next day.
3. While still at school she was clearly a _____ genius.
4. I don't like that superior, _____ tone of his.
5. He's still _____. He needs more experience.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You've met your old friend John. Talk to him about your writing career. The teacher can be John.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Do you like to write? Why? Why not?
2. Do you think that being good at writing is a talent that you're born with or is it a skill that can be learned?
3. What do you think about the job of a writer?
4. In your opinion, what makes a good article or novel?
5. What is your favorite novel? Why?