Secret to Good Writing and Improving Vocabulary in English

Well, it’s not really a secret, so here it is. The secret to improving your writing and vocabulary in English (or any language, for that matter) is time and practice. Time and Practice are very old-school concepts, but that’s what it takes. There are no short cuts.

Three Steps to Improve Your Writing and Vocabulary

1. Find a passage (usually a paragraph) that you think is well written. Using a pen (not pencil, and certainly not a computer), COPY the passage verbatim (word for word). Include all punctuation and capitalization exactly as it appears in the original.
2. Look up and define every word you do not know, so that you can understand the passage clearly. Write these words and definitions on paper.
3. Read the hand-written passage you copied aloud . Try to pronounce every word correctly, and try to read the paragraph smoothly.

The entire process may take about 30 – 40 minutes. That’s Time. You have to do it daily (or as much as you can). That’s practice. But it works.

Paragraphs to Improve Your Writing and Vocabulary

Herman Melville. Moby Dick. First Paragraph

Edward Gibbon. History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. From Chapter 1

Adam Smith. An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations. From Chapter V

Jack London. The Call of the Wild. From Chapter 1

Thomas Babington Macaulay. The History of England. From Chapter 1