



Spellbinding Sentences: A Writer's Guide to Achieving Excellence and Captivating Readers

By Barbara Baig



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Spellbinding Sentences is the first book to teach writers how to build their skills the same way musicians and athletes build theirs--according to the proven principles of expertise training.

With *Spellbinding Sentences* as your guide, you will master the essentials of writing craft. You'll learn how to train, through practice, the part of your mind that comes up with words and arranges them into sentences. As you practice, you'll build your vocabulary and become more aware of what words can do, and you'll expand your repertoire of sentence techniques. The result? You'll become expert at creating powerful sentences--sentences that will grab your readers' attention and keep them turning pages.



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Editorial Review

Review

I hope young writers find this book and profit from it! I give it the Vulcan salute--"Live long and prosper!"

--Ursula K. Le Guin

Barbara Baig's *Spellbinding Sentences* is a tribute to the pleasure and vitality of the English language. Never prescriptive and always clear, this enlightening book is sure to help all those wishing to add grace and strength to their writing.

--Jane Brox, award-winning author of *Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light*

Spellbinding Sentences is sophisticated and down-to-earth at the same time. Barbara Baig has distilled decades of experience into this wise book.

--Edward Dolnick, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece*

Barbara Baig's exposition of 'sentence craft' is a wonderful and useful treatment for writers young and old, fiction and nonfiction, practical and personal. Here teachers and students will find a handy toolkit for developing the 'word mind,' whose achievement is the beginning of distinctive, effective prose.

--Mark Bauerlein, professor of English, Emory University, former director of Research and Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts, and author of the award-winning *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future*

Spellbinding Sentences is a wonderfully clear, thoughtful and practical guide for any writer who wants to master the basic unit of our craft: the sentence. Barbara Baig explains the building-blocks of our language and the different ways they can be fitted together to create the effects that you want. This book will help any writer to move well beyond mere correctness, towards writing which is not just clear and accurate in meaning, but full of style and music as well.

--Emma Darwin, prizewinning UK author of *The Mathematics of Love* and *A Secret Alchemy*

"Professional writing teacher Barbara Baig presents *Spellbinding Sentences: A Writer's Guide to Achieving Excellence & Captivating Readers* lives up to its title as a practical guide improving one's writing through study, practice, and learning from quality models. Chapters cover both nuts and bolts of syntax and advanced strategies of composition, with a wealth of demonstrative examples throughout. "Just like athletes and musicians, writers can break down the complex activity of writing into its component skills; we can practice each skill on its own, then combine it with others." Filled cover to cover with tips, tricks, techniques, and useful advice, *Spellbinding Sentences* is a "must-have" for aspiring writers everywhere! Also highly recommended is Barbara Baig's previous book, *How to Be a Writer: Building Your Creative Skills Through Practice and Play*." --Library Bookwatch, September 2015

From the Author

My first book, *How To Be a Writer: Building Your Creative Skills Through Practice and Play*, focused on

the skills writers must use in coming up with material for pieces of writing. But great ideas, scenes, characters, story--they aren't enough to keep people reading your work. You also have to produce excellent writing--that's what agents and editors are looking for.

Many aspiring writers believe only the talented few can produce great sentences. But that isn't true. In the scientific field of expertise studies, researchers have shown that talent has little to do with building expertise; what counts is dedication to deliberate practice. Just like experts in other fields, you can build and develop your skills in writing craft through guided practice and imitating models of excellence.

I developed this skills-building program for students in an MFA program in creative writing. Now, in *Spellbinding Sentences*, I make it available to writers of all kinds. Here you'll be shown what to practice, and how to practice, as you take one step after another along the path to writing mastery. With mastery comes the confidence that you know what you're doing as you write and revise. That confidence is available to anyone willing to put time and energy into practicing skills.

About the Author

Barbara Baig is the creator of The Mastery Path for Writers, an innovative way to develop writing expertise. This approach is the result of her thirty years' experience teaching writing to adults and young adults. Barbara founded the popular Writing Workshops at Harvard Divinity School, where she taught for two decades. She now teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Lesley University and online at Where Writers Learn. Her first book was *How To Be a Writer: Building Your Creative Skills through Practice and Play*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Cruce:

The feeling that you get from *Spellbinding Sentences: A Writer's Guide to Achieving Excellence and Captivating Readers* is a more deep you searching the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but *Spellbinding Sentences: A Writer's Guide to Achieving Excellence and Captivating Readers* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood through anyone who read that because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this particular *Spellbinding Sentences: A Writer's Guide to Achieving Excellence and Captivating Readers* instantly.

Amanda Bell:

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Dolores Schreiber:

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Kari Annis:

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