



Ask a Sitton Specialist

How were topics chosen for the Build Skillful Writers activities?

Anya Boggan
Curriculum Director

Dear Anya,

Many teachers have reported that incorporating Build Skillful Writers activities into their spelling instruction improves their students' writing skills. Build Skillful Writers (BSW) activities are included in Sourcebook Levels 4–8. The activities include a variety of language-learning based topics, ranging in difficulty and designed to provide additional opportunities for students to learn to spell in concert with related language skills.

The Build Skillful Writers topics were thoughtfully selected based on which skills are known to challenge students most, as well as the skills that most often appear on standardized tests. For example, in Level 4, topics include the correct usage of *between* and *among*, capitalization, punctuation, and hyphenated number words. In Level 8, topics include double negatives, repetition for emphasis, combining sentences, and words with more than one acceptable spelling.

Teachers are encouraged to use the activities at any time and to target activities to those students who might benefit most. A variety of formats such as teacher-directed lessons, small group exercises or independent at-school or at-home activities can be used.

