

How the book works

WHAT, HOW AND WHY – A MANUAL OF BETTER ENGLISH

- Was written with the help of a former tearaway, who was thrown out of all the local schools, and a fourteen year-old school refuser.
- Follows a long-held conviction that understanding English leads to better use of English.
- Adapts ideas from car manuals and progressive methods of teaching EFL.
- Addresses directly the point of view of those who have been let down by school or have let themselves down at school.
- Acknowledges students' failures and wariness of adult advice and interference.
- Engages with both students and helpers using humour and anecdote.
- Points out important reasons for communicating clearly and accurately: economic, psychological, social and political.
- Maximizes students' chances of getting things right and then finding the confidence to take the next step.
- Includes "Essentials" – supplementary material for tutors and for students in a hurry.
- Aims at independent, educated use of the written language and makes clear the importance of this for life, not just for schools and examinations.

And teaching can be fun - my Dagenham boys - 1988



My last day at Bishop Ward School. When I came into our form room to take the register there was a pig's head on my desk which the boys had smuggled into school. (They knew that I had been a pig farmer before training to teach English.) We had been studying William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* in which a group of boys on a tropical island kill a pig and set up its head as a totem.

I was so very proud of these fellows; it is not easy to get hold of a pig's head in Dagenham, let alone smuggle it into school.

WHW - Extent – 80,000 words approx.