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How would I go to work to learn to write if I were new at school? This is the question that one of the editors of the Phillips Exeter Academy Monthly has put to me.

1. I should first learn to use my eyes; to see things as they are; always trying to put the things I saw into words, honest words, the best I commanded. I should realize that what I saw would depend upon the mind behind the eye; its cargo of knowledge; its ability to reflect; to use the imagination. I should try to be humble and say to my eyes: "This is the best you can do now, but as my mind expands possibly you will see more in the thing at which you are looking, also as the mind expands I may find fitter words to interpret better what you see.

2. I should learn to use my ears, particularly to note men's phrases, their choice of words and the way they express to me the ideas that they are trying to convey. I should appraise the naturalness of their words, that is whether they spoke out of their mind and heart, words that could be said to be their own or whether they were using words imitatively, trying to be literary or artistic, using a jargon.

3. I should study words, their variety, their shading perfection, music, their ability to make me understand, see pictures, and when writing I should be particularly severe with myself in selecting the words which would best convey my ideas. You remember how Tommy - in Barrie's "Tommy and Grizel", lost a prize which his master thought he might easily have won because the right word for the thing he was trying to say did not come to him and he sat obstinately searching until the time given for the task was up. When his astonished master asked him why he, Tommy, had handed in an unfinished essay, he told him that he could not go on because he could not find the right word, and the master knew then that Tommy had the makings of a writer in him.

4. I should read more books to find if I could discover the

