



**KEY**

- 0** successful authors
- Q1** shares his secret(s)
- Q2** explore the unknown/go beyond limits
- Q3** see every facet/aspect
- Q4** approach
- Q5** periods of no/zero creativity

**TAPESCRIPT**

**Matthew Hamilton:** Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you all for taking part in my seminar “The secret behind writing books”. My name is Matthew Hamilton and I am the author of Why writing does not have to be as difficult as it sounds. After tonight, you will possess the knowledge on how to write a successful book, utilising all the talents hidden inside of you.

Now, before we start, I want you to remember, that there are many authors out there who would never dream of sharing their work processes with you. Fortunately for you, however, I simply can’t keep a secret.

To begin with, any successful book is based on a great story with elaborate characters. Determining where your book’s plot is going to lead you is one of the most exciting aspects of being an author. While you are creating an image of this entirely new world, you can go above and beyond any limit. There is virtually nothing stopping you or holding you back, since you enjoy the ultimate freedom of exploring the unknown. In many cases you will discover that plot and characters alike take on a life of their own and begin to guide you to where they want to go. While you generally feel more in control in the beginning of the writing process, the storyline starts to almost write itself the closer you get to the end. I have often caught myself being surprised at the twists and turns my plots took. Sometimes it seemed as if some stranger had taken my place. Nevertheless, there is a certain magic to letting your own phantasy run wild.


When it comes to designing well-rounded and believable characters, I have found that I needed to acquire in-depth knowledge about them long before I ever tried to tell their stories. There is a technique I usually apply in order to develop my protagonists. By playing out their entire lives from the second of their birth to their last breath, I can create an image in my mind which shows me every single facet before I have to put one word down on paper. Frequently I feel as if I know my characters better than I could ever know myself, because they hold no surprises for me.

Now let’s move on to the most mysterious part of an author’s work process: how he or she actually goes about writing books. There are as many approaches as there are authors and it will be up to you to determine the one that will enable you to produce great literary works. Nevertheless, let’s take a

look at several options you could start out with. Now, I can think of several colleagues who draw up a work schedule to which they stick religiously. Each day they can be found at their keyboard typing along at precisely 9 a.m. and they will switch off their computers at 5 p.m. sharp. For those of you not able yet to afford the luxury of writing books as their only profession, it might be a good idea to decide on a time frame of one or two hours a day when you will sit down and write. For myself, however, time frames have never worked all that well, which is why I suffer from long periods of absolutely zero creativity interrupted by short episodes of desperate writing, during which I might produce an entire book. If I'm lucky, my editor even thinks it might be worth selling.

Like most authors I have also lived through the terrifying moments, hours or even months of writer's block. Now this is difficult to deal with ... *(fade out)*

## 2. Listening: The biggest lies about beauty

 You are going to listen to a recording about the biggest lies about beauty. First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice. While listening, match the beginnings of the sentences (1–5) with the sentence endings (A–H). There are two extra sentence endings you should not use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you. After the second listening you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

### The biggest lies about beauty

<b>0</b>	The radio host starts out by ...	E
<b>Q1</b>	People around the world and their ideas on beauty are ...	
<b>Q2</b>	Young adults' images of beauty are ...	
<b>Q3</b>	The conflict between realistic views and society's requirements results in people ...	
<b>Q4</b>	In their everyday lives, people can't avoid ...	
<b>Q5</b>	For most patients, cosmetic surgery results in ...	

<b>A</b>	... becoming more aware of the situation.
<b>B</b>	... adapting to recent changes.
<b>C</b>	... becoming increasingly different.
<b>D</b>	... being even unhappier.
<b>E</b>	... giving an overview of today's topics.
<b>F</b>	... being developed.
<b>G</b>	... being insecure and disoriented.
<b>H</b>	... being adapted.

**KEY**

- 0–E** giving an overview of today’s topics.
- Q1–C** becoming increasingly different.
- Q2–F** being developed.
- Q3–G** being insecure and disoriented.
- Q4–A** becoming more aware of the situation.
- Q5–D** being even unhappier.

**TAPESCRIPT**

**Mitch Lane:** Hello to all you listeners out there and welcome to another afternoon full of interesting news, fascinating facts and amazing reports! This is Mitch Lane and you are listening to this week’s broadcast of “Haven’t you heard?”.

As always, let me give you a quick overview of today’s topics. First on our list is a short report on the biggest lies about beauty, followed by some of the latest gossip about your favourite celebrities, and finally we will provide you with ten awesome ways to save money.

Now, the following report has been released by a research team at Cambridge and offers truly remarkable insights into the topic of beauty. Enjoy!

**Male researcher:** Beauty might be the biggest mystery life has to offer, since there are few other topics commanding such strong emotions and beliefs among all of us. Mankind has never been able to agree on what is beautiful and what isn’t and it seems we are drifting further apart as we speak. Almost every culture has its own, very specific ideas about what perfection looks like and celebrates its specific image of beauty.

In our most recent research project, we have been trying to determine how realistic certain images and perceptions of beauty are. The expectations put forward by societies put pressure on both genders and have an especially far-reaching impact on young adults who – in most cases – have not yet established or finalised their own ideas on physical perfection. Since many societies have reached a point where they worship quite unnatural images of beauty which collide with reality, thousands of adolescents and young adults have to deal with the fact that they simply cannot achieve the aims they set for themselves. This growing gap between reality and expectations can be seen as responsible for a lack of self-confidence and pride in those age groups. When the images of physical perfection presented by the environment forces young men and women to despair due to the impossibility of reaching their goals, we risk destroying the vulnerable psyche of people who can no longer accept who they are.

Apart from the unrealistic expectations towards people’s physical appearances, there is another issue which we have been looking at in more detail. Beauty and its corresponding requirements are subject to constant change. Within a decade, most society’s perceptions of beauty undergo

several adjustments. While this has always been the case, the past decade has presented us with the most extreme variety of concepts. Since constant change commonly results in feelings of confusion and disorientation, people may even begin to suffer from psychological problems. The main problem lies in the fact that it is virtually impossible to withdraw from this vicious cycle, because there is no escaping the world surrounding us. If it was only fashion magazines and television shows, we might be able to distance ourselves from the ideas presented, but the message is there, in the clothes we buy, the packages our food is wrapped in, and the advertisements accompanying us throughout the day.

Finally, there is one last aspect I think is worth mentioning. A growing number of people look for salvation in cosmetic surgery, hoping that a scalpel will achieve what all their efforts couldn't. However, what patients are commonly unaware of is that turning to cosmetic surgery is often only the first step to spinning out of control. Most people assume they will find peace after having undergone surgery. However, the truth often is that one operation leads to the next, because once we have perfected a small part of ourselves, our expectations increase and we start looking for the next part which could be corrected or improved.

### 3. Reading: Marriage between homosexual partners

Read the text below, then put the summarising statements (A–I) into the correct order. There are two extra summarising statements you should not use. Write your answers in the boxes provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

#### Marriage between homosexual partners

Looking at the changes societal structures went through in recent years, it is not surprising that many people have a hard time adapting to new concepts and laws. While the fact that homosexual relationships exist and are acceptable seems to have sunk in, the idea of legalising marriages between same sex partners is far more critical in the eyes of its opponents.

One argument that is frequently coming up in discussion is the religious aspect of marriage. Since many religions do not accept homosexual relationships, they refuse to celebrate the bond between same sex partners in church and provide them with the possibility to speak their vows in a religious context. However, most homosexual couples do not strive for the church's tolerance but for legal appreciation of their decision to share their life.

When it comes to legal confirmation, opponents of legalising such marriages often claim that the protection and security such a legal bond offers should be reserved for heterosexual couples, who fulfil their image of proper couples. They argue that couples who are likely to raise families are in greater need of such protective laws and regulations than two adults who will never reproduce in a natural way.

Nevertheless, the question remains whether it would not violate basic human rights to refuse couples who fell in love the right to be partners also in a legal sense. This is especially true in reference to possible emergency situations, where homosexual partners often run into problems obtaining even the most basic information about each other from doctors or nurses when their partner has been hospitalised. In addition, people living together should also be able to inherit from each other or to perform other legal action possible for married couples.

However, opponents are often angered by the fact that such a legalisation might provide homosexual couples with financial benefits designed for couples willing to raise a family. In many countries married couples enjoy special forms of tax relief, which would then also be extended to same sex marriages. Nevertheless, this problem could easily be solved by introducing different tax regulations for any childless married couple, no matter whether it is homosexual or heterosexual.



**KEY**

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
B	D	A	F	E	G	I



before hiring the intern. Only after making sure the requirements are met, a contract will be formed. Finally, signing non-disclosure clauses might be necessary in order to protect the company's product.

**... (Q3)**

Clearly internships have many possible benefits for young people. However, it is not always the case that such employment guarantees a job offer later on. Naturally many interns hope to be kept on by the company after a few months, but fail to realise that companies often have underlying reasons for employing interns that have nothing to do with later hiring. In addition, internships do not ensure that the worker gains experience in the area they are interested in or were aiming at. Finally, there is the question of income. The lack of payment for the work can cause major difficulties for interns.

**... (Q4)**

In the ideal case internships would simply be the perfect opportunity to first enter the job market. Once you have signed a contract for a position like that, it opens the door to making your first steps in a small or large company. Not always, however, does this decision prove to be a good one. As a matter of fact, interns work in relatively low positions, which often invite condescending behaviour of their superiors or even sexual harassment. Even if such incidents cannot be seen as normal occurrences, a raised awareness towards them might be necessary. Furthermore, the possibility of being used as a cheap worker instead of being instructed on appropriate work duties is a very real one.

**... (Q5)**

On the other hand, the assignments given to interns may be quite complex and challenging. Given that many people with internship contracts have received an excellent education, they are usually thought to be capable of performing certain high-skill duties, provided that they do not need any extra training on them. Same as normal workers, interns should do their jobs in the best way possible and be aware of the fact that they represent the company at any time. Being aware of this fact will help in succeeding during your internship.

<b>A</b>	Drawbacks of internships
<b>B</b>	The new-found importance of internships
<b>C</b>	Laws for internships
<b>D</b>	Risks of entering such types of employment
<b>E</b>	Common similarities of internships
<b>F</b>	Possible consequences of internships
<b>G</b>	Expectations on interns
<b>H</b>	Agreements between interns and companies

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
B					

**KEY**

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
B	E	H	A	D	G

### 5. Language in use: The significance of being different

You are going to read a text about the significance of being different. In most lines of the text there is a word that should not be there. Write that word in the space provided after each line. Seven to nine lines are correct. Indicate these lines with a tick (✓). There are two examples at the beginning.

#### The significance of being different

Younger generations have always aimed at being as different from the	<i>as</i>	<b>0</b>
generations before them, mostly because they commonly feel the need to	✓	<b>00</b>
establish their own style, identity, and way of life. The result is a huge gap	_____	<b>Q1</b>
between older and younger members of society, which in the turn causes	_____	<b>Q2</b>
major conflicts and frequent disagreements.	_____	<b>Q3</b>
Another consequence out of this fact is the perception of younger people	_____	<b>Q4</b>
as to being disrespectful and ungrateful towards their elders, even though	_____	<b>Q5</b>
most young adults' efforts to be different rather originate in their desire to	_____	<b>Q6</b>
create something new than in their wish to overthrow what others will	_____	<b>Q7</b>
have worked for or to rebel against anything and anybody.	_____	<b>Q8</b>
However, among of members of one generation the basic ideals and	_____	<b>Q9</b>
expectations on life are normally quite so similar. Up until now most	_____	<b>Q10</b>
people belonging to a specific age of group tended to display certain	_____	<b>Q11</b>
types of hairstyle, clothes, and behaviour. Nevertheless, the members of	_____	<b>Q12</b>
recent generations show a tendency towards the placing an increased	_____	<b>Q13</b>
importance on being individuals who differ from each and other. This rise	_____	<b>Q14</b>
in individualism is especially noticeable when it comes to the way people	_____	<b>Q15</b>
behave in society, which is becoming increasingly extrovert and outspoken.	_____	<b>Q16</b>

**KEY**

Younger generations have always aimed at being <b>as</b> different from the	<u>as</u>	<b>0</b>
generations before them, mostly because they commonly feel the need to	<u>✓</u>	<b>00</b>
establish their own style, identity, and way of life. The result is a huge gap	<u>✓</u>	<b>Q1</b>
between older and younger members of society, which in <b>the</b> turn causes	<u>the</u>	<b>Q2</b>
major conflicts and frequent disagreements.	<u>✓</u>	<b>Q3</b>
Another consequence <b>out</b> of this fact is the perception of younger people	<u>out</u>	<b>Q4</b>
<b>as to</b> being disrespectful and ungrateful towards their elders, even though	<u>to</u>	<b>Q5</b>
most young adults' efforts to be different rather originate in their desire to	<u>✓</u>	<b>Q6</b>
create something new than in their wish to overthrow what others <b>will</b>	<u>will</u>	<b>Q7</b>
have worked for or to rebel against anything and anybody.	<u>✓</u>	<b>Q8</b>
However, among <b>of</b> members of one generation the basic ideals and	<u>of</u>	<b>Q9</b>
expectations on life are normally quite <b>so</b> similar. Up until now most	<u>so</u>	<b>Q10</b>
people belonging to a specific age <b>of</b> group tended to display certain	<u>of</u>	<b>Q11</b>
types of hairstyle, clothes, and behaviour. Nevertheless, the members of	<u>✓</u>	<b>Q12</b>
recent generations show a tendency towards <b>the</b> placing an increased	<u>the</u>	<b>Q13</b>
importance on being individuals who differ from each <b>and</b> other. This rise	<u>and</u>	<b>Q14</b>
in individualism is especially noticeable when it comes to the way people	<u>✓</u>	<b>Q15</b>
behave in society, which is becoming increasingly extrovert and outspoken.	<u>✓</u>	<b>Q16</b>



**KEY**

<b>0</b>	<i>of</i>
<b>Q1</b>	<i>chain</i>
<b>Q2</b>	<i>achieving, reaching</i>
<b>Q3</b>	<i>order</i>
<b>Q4</b>	<i>the</i>
<b>Q5</b>	<i>strategies, methods</i>
<b>Q6</b>	<i>beyond</i>
<b>Q7</b>	<i>from</i>

## 7. Writing: Money matters

### Money matters

As a student you have noticed a clear increase in excursions and projects. While you understand their purpose, you also see the high costs of such activities. As a head student, you write a **formal letter** to the headmaster, Mr Sawyer, to make him aware of the problem. In your formal letter, you should:

- outline the problem you see in the increased costs for students
- describe the financial consequences on low-income families and their children
- recommend an alternative solution for this problem

Write a **formal letter** of about **250 words**.