

DICTIONARY FIRST AID

Using grammatical information and sample sentences in a learner's dictionary to facilitate self-editing

1. Review or remind the student of the **TARGET FEATURE** by pointing out the explanations given in the dictionary. (e.g. transitive vs intransitive)
2. Ask your student to **IDENTIFY** all the verbs in a unit of writing which use the target feature in error. (i.e. "After the thief robbed, he ran quickly." and "Luckily, an old man tripped with his stick and the policeman caught the bad man.")
3. Ask the student to **LOOK UP** the main verb in his/her learner's dictionary and determine what target feature is required for his/her verb.
4. Point out the **SAMPLE SENTENCES** accompanying the verb as model sentences which use the pattern correctly.
5. Ask the student to compare his use of the verb with the use of the verb as shown in the sample sentences. **REWRITE** any sentences which do not pattern in the same way.