

⁵The students who took part in the computer assisted element of the writing course outperformed those who followed the traditional course in every aspect as shown by their performance on the University of Hertfordshire Writing test. ⁶They showed particular strengths in the task achievement element of the assessment, suggesting that the computer assisted materials really help the students to understand and focus on the purpose of their writing. ⁷It also seems to be the case that the individually directed nature of the on-line materials helps the students to focus on their own specific needs as well as allowing them to access their materials in their own time. ⁸Another reason for the success of the materials may be that it allows students to spend more time on the course than is normally the case in a classroom based programme. ⁹This supports and adds to the findings of Jones & Smith (1997) and Harris (2002), who showed similar results for an on-line grammar course.

¹¹As the results have shown, in answer to the question of whether Students in Higher Education on an EAP writing course would benefit from computer assisted instruction, the findings clearly suggest that they do.