**Chapter 5 • Writing Lessons**

How does it work?

**Skills Toolkit:** Generating ideas, words, sentences  
**Knowledge Toolkit:** Practising writing explanations

**Materials**

- Mini-whiteboards/paper/writing books/tablets or laptops  
- Images in the photo bank on the CD-Rom

**Procedure**

1. Project a picture of an object or show the actual object. Alternatively, show a short clip of the object in operation.
2. Discuss in pairs or small groups how this object works. Write notes or scribe a sentence on the board to scaffold the activity.
3. The students write a short explanation of how the object works.  
   Here are some ideas for objects:
   - scissors  
   - stapler  
   - key  
   - bike  
   - bow and arrow  
   - door knob  
   - pencil sharpener  
   - can opener  
   - bottle opener  
   - egg beater  
   - see-saw  
   - spray bottle  
   - knife  
   - clothes peg  
   - wheelbarrow  
   - Lego brick.

**Variations**

- Emergent writers could complete this Quick Write orally and the teacher could scribe.
- Draw and label the object to establish a bank of precise vocabulary.
- Draw a diagram, and label it to show how the object works.
- Write a script for an advertisement to sell the object, pretending it is a new invention.
- Complete this Quick Write orally. Students could pretend they are describing how the object works to a visitor from outer space.