

Shorthand

The Craft of Writing · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

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Some students ask my advice on shorthand.

I'm not a good judge of this question.

I squibbed-out of learning shorthand when I was a cadet journalist in the 1960s.

I wish I HAD learned it.

But after five decades in journalism (1961-2011) I can honestly say that not having had shorthand skills never held me back from getting or doing a job.

You be the judge in your own case.

Shorthand is mighty handy.

But incidentally . . .

When you see a media conference on TV, notice how every journalist is holding up a tiny recorder?

Reprinted from The Wonderful World of Journalism. Written in the spirit of Simon Townsend's journalism craft advice. Visit simontownsendjournalist.com for the full archive.