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The Almena Method

A Teacher's Review

By Mr. Charles D. Amun-Rah, MS Ed.

July 21, 2003

Dear Almena:

The Almena Method was first introduced to the NYC Department of Education's Occupational Education Teachers (Occ. Ed.) for their input and review in 2001. When the method was first demonstrated to me, I fell in love with it for the following reasons:

- The Almena Method is bright, colorful, innovative, new, and interactive.
- Its use of the mnemonic/ memory game to assist the user in remembering the keyboard is revolutionary and very successful.
- It has clear instructions, provides numerous activities, and encourages self-paced individualized learning.

When the video first comes on, the user meets an enthusiastic and cheerful teacher (Almena) who guides the student through the lessons. Her very positive and non-judgmental approach leads the student to have confidence in him or herself that he or she will be successful with this program. As so many teachers know, self-confidence and a good self-esteem will greatly help students in achieving their goals. Judging from the video, Almena clearly shows that she understands these fundamental or essential prerequisites of good teaching and learning.

The feedback from the students in my six classes has been very positive. They compare Almena to other typing programs and find it to be more fun, easier to understand and feel more successful in improving their skills. Students report steady progress in accuracy and rates of speed. There is usually an increase in wpm of 1-3 words per class. Novice typists who begin typing with a range 1 – 7 wpm at the end the eight-week term show an increase in speed of from 15 – 45 wpm. Those results occur after practicing for less than an hour, twice a week with a population of students, most of whom are middle aged and are supposedly so difficult to teach. Those whose primary focus is typing and not computer skills improve even more.

As an Occ. Ed. Teacher, I have used many different typing programs in the past, including Mavis Beacon and Gregg College Keyboarding. I now use Almena exclusively because I find its presentation and student success rate to be superior to the other programs.

Speaking personally, I also have benefited from teaching the Almena method. Although I have typed for years, until Almena, I had never really been able to memorize the entire keyboard without great effort. Now I remember it effortlessly.

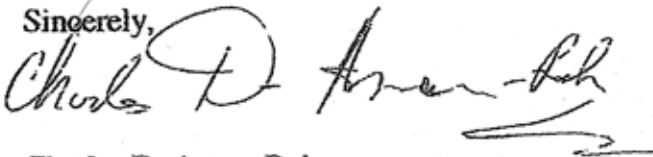
My personal typing speed has increased markedly by at least 100%, from 25 wpm to over 50 wpm. If I were to devote more time to increasing my speed, I have no doubt that by using The Almena approach; I could continue to increase that speed to well over 75wpm.

As far as teaching typing and keyboard skills, Almena has made that process much easier. It is a self- paced course where each student moves and learns at his or her own speed. The accompanying texts are a wonderful reinforcement for what is presented on the computer screen. The positive passages at the end of the lessons are an added and unexpected nice touch to motivate students, They are being motivated and positively reinvigorated simultaneously while they type. This is Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI) at its best.

Almena has produced a great program for which she should rightfully be proud. She and company should be lauded for creative curricula. I give the highest recommendation to The Almena Method typing program. Any typing or keyboarding program or any individual who wishes a fun, innovative and successful approach to learn to type, should use The Almena Method.

Thank you for making my job easier, more fun and successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles D. Amun-Rah". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

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