

2822-7182

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Second Edition

SIDNEY GREENBAUM
GERALD NELSON



An imprint of **Pearson Education**

London • New York • Toronto • Sydney • Tokyo • Singapore • Hong Kong • Cape Town
New Delhi • Madrid • Paris • Amsterdam • Munich • Milan • Stockholm

Contents

<i>Preface to the Second Edition</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
1. Rules and variation	1
1.1 What is grammar?	1
1.2 Grammar and other aspects of language	1
1.3 Grammars of English	2
1.4 National varieties	2
1.5 Standard and non-standard English	3
1.6 Variation according to use	4
1.7 Descriptive rules and prescriptive rules	5
1.8 Why study grammar?	5
Exercises	6
Part I: The Grammar	
2. The sentence	13
2.1 What is a sentence?	13
2.2 Irregular sentences and non-sentences	14
2.3 Simple and multiple sentences	15
2.4 Sentence types	16
2.5 Positive and negative sentences	17
2.6 Active and passive sentences	17
Exercises	18
3. The parts of the simple sentence	20
3.1 Structure, form, function	20
3.2 Subject, predicate, verb	21
3.3 Operator	22
3.4 <i>Do, Be, Have</i>	23
3.5 Subject and verb	23
3.6 Subject	25

5. Word classes	86
5.1 Open and closed classes	86
5.2 Word classes and word uses	87
<i>Nouns</i>	
5.3 Noun suffixes	88
5.4 Noun classes	88
5.5 Number	90
5.6 Gender	90
5.7 Case	90
5.8 Dependent and independent genitives	91
<i>Main Verbs</i>	
5.9 Verb suffixes	92
5.10 Regular and irregular verbs	92
5.11 Classes of irregular verbs	93
<i>Adjectives</i>	
5.12 Adjective suffixes	95
5.13 Adjective classes	95
5.14 Gradability and comparison	96
<i>Adverbs</i>	
5.15 Adverb suffixes	98
5.16 Gradability and comparison	98
<i>Pronouns</i>	
5.17 Pronoun classes	98
5.18 Personal pronouns	100
5.19 Possessives	101
5.20 Reflexive pronouns	102
5.21 Demonstrative pronouns	102
5.22 Reciprocal pronouns	103
5.23 Interrogative pronouns	103
5.24 Relative pronouns	104
5.25 Indefinite pronouns and numerals	104
<i>Determiners</i>	
5.26 Classes of determiners	106
5.27 Central determiners	106
5.28 The articles and reference	107
5.29 Pre-determiners	109
5.30 Post-determiners	109
<i>Auxiliaries</i>	
5.31 Classes of auxiliaries	110
5.32 Meanings of the modals	111
5.33 Conjunctions	111
5.34 Prepositions	112
Exercises	113

3.7	Transitive verbs and direct object	26
3.8	Linking verbs and subject complement	27
3.9	Intransitive verbs and adverbials	28
3.10	Adverbial complement	29
3.11	Direct object and indirect object	30
3.12	Direct object and object complement	31
3.13	The basic sentence structures	32
3.14	The meanings of the sentence elements	34
	Exercises	37
4.	The structures of phrases	46
4.1	Phrase types	46
	<i>The noun phrase</i>	
4.2	The structure of the noun phrase	47
4.3	Determiners	48
4.4	Modifiers	48
4.5	Relative clauses	49
4.6	Appositive clauses	50
4.7	Apposition	50
4.8	Coordination	51
4.9	Noun phrase complexity	52
4.10	Functions of noun phrases	53
	<i>The verb phrase</i>	
4.11	The structure of the verb phrase	53
4.12	Main verbs	54
4.13	Tense, person, and number	55
4.14	Aspect	56
4.15	Voice	57
4.16	Expressing future time	59
4.17	The sequence of auxiliaries	59
4.18	Finite and non-finite verb phrases	61
4.19	Mood	62
4.20	Multi-word verbs	64
	<i>The adjective phrase</i>	
4.21	The structure of the adjective phrase	67
4.22	Functions of adjective phrases	68
	<i>The adverb phrase</i>	
4.23	The structure of the adverb phrase	69
4.24	Functions of adverb phrases	69
	<i>The prepositional phrase</i>	
4.25	The structure of the prepositional phrase	70
4.26	Functions of prepositional phrases	71
	Exercises	72

6.	Sentences and clauses	121
6.1	Sentence types	121
6.2	Questions	121
6.3	Imperatives	123
6.4	Exclamatives	123
6.5	Speech acts	124
6.6	Compound sentences	125
6.7	Complex sentences	125
6.8	Non-finite and verbless clauses	126
6.9	Functions of subordinate clauses	127
6.10	Sentence complexity	129
6.11	<i>There</i> -structures	130
6.12	Cleft sentences	131
6.13	Anticipatory <i>it</i>	131
	Exercises	132

Part II: The Applications

7.	Usage problems	141
	<i>Subject-verb agreement</i>	
7.1	The general rules	141
7.2	<i>And</i>	142
7.3	<i>Or, nor</i>	143
7.4	<i>With</i>	144
7.5	Collective nouns	144
7.6	Indefinite pronouns	145
7.7	Quantity phrases	146
7.8	Singular nouns ending in <i>-s</i>	147
7.9	<i>Who, which, that</i>	147
7.10	<i>What</i>	148
7.11	<i>There is, There are</i>	149
7.12	Citations and titles	149
	<i>Case</i>	
7.13	Subject complement	149
7.14	Coordinated phrases	149
7.15	After <i>as</i> and <i>than</i>	150
7.16	After <i>but</i>	150
7.17	After <i>let</i>	151
7.18	<i>Who, whom</i>	151
7.19	Case with <i>-ing</i> clauses	152
	<i>Auxiliaries and verbs</i>	
7.20	Problems with auxiliaries	153

7.21	<i>Lie, lay</i>	153
7.22	Present tense	153
7.23	Past and <i>-ed</i> participle	154
7.24	Past and past subjunctive	154
7.25	Multiple negation	155
	<i>Adjectives and adverbs</i>	
7.26	Confusion between adjectives and adverbs	156
7.27	Comparison	157
7.28	<i>Only</i>	158
7.29	Dangling modifiers	158
	Exercises	159
8.	Style	168
8.1	Style in writing	168
	<i>Emphasis</i>	
8.2	End-focus	168
8.3	Front-focus	169
8.4	<i>There</i> -structures and cleft sentences	169
8.5	Parenthetic expressions	170
	<i>Clarity</i>	
8.6	End-weight	170
8.7	Misplaced expressions	171
8.8	Abstract nouns	173
8.9	Modifiers in noun phrases	174
8.10	Subordination	174
8.11	Parallelism	175
8.12	Repeated sounds	176
8.13	Pronoun reference	177
	<i>Consistency</i>	
8.14	Pronoun agreement	178
8.15	Tense consistency	178
	Exercises	179
9.	Punctuation	183
9.1	Punctuation rules	183
9.2	Sentence fragments and fragmentary sentences	184
9.3	Run-on sentences and comma splices	186
9.4	Coordinated main clauses	188
9.5	Direct speech	189
9.6	Citations	192
9.7	Questions	193
9.8	Restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses	194
9.9	Restrictive and non-restrictive apposition	195

9.10	Adverbial clauses	196
9.11	Vocatives and interjections	198
9.12	Avoidance of misunderstanding	199
9.13	Genitives of nouns	199
9.14	Genitives of pronouns	200
	Exercises	201
10.	English in use	208
10.1	Register variation	208
10.2	Conversational English	208
10.3	Unscripted monologue	217
10.4	Sports commentaries	219
10.5	Email English	223
10.6	The language of literature	227
	10.6.1 Foregrounding	230
	10.6.2 Ambiguity	233
	Exercises	238
	Appendix: Spelling	246
A.1	Spelling, pronunciation, and meaning	246
A.2	Spelling variants	248
A.3	Spelling rules for short and long vowel sounds	248
A.4	Suffixes	250
A.5	Prefixes	255
A.6	Other aids to spelling	256
A.7	Homophones: Words pronounced similarly	257
	Exercises	263
	<i>Glossary</i>	267
	<i>Further reading</i>	295
	<i>Index</i>	297