



A Handbook of English Grammar

R. W. Zandvoort

LOW-PRICED EDITION

Zandvoort

A HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Seventh Edition

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This is a descriptive grammar of contemporary English which has in it comparisons with practice current in other languages designed to pinpoint peculiarities of the English tongue. Originally written as a manual of English grammar for Dutch students, in which form in a comparatively short time it has now run into seven editions, it deals with accidence and syntax. That is to say that it leaves aside what belongs rather to idiom and is not amenable to general statement. It also eschews discussion of the evolution of the language in order to concentrate on what is contemporary. Care has been taken to ensure that the latest edition should reflect current grammatical usage and terminology.

A HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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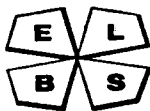
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Seventh Edition



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PREFACE

THIS book was originally designed as a manual of English grammar for Dutch students. As such it ran into six editions in less than twice as many years, and drew a good deal of attention outside the Netherlands. A French version (*Grammaire Descriptive de l'Anglais Contemporain*) appeared in 1949, and more than one reviewer urged the desirability of a unilingual edition for general use, with the comparisons with and translations into Dutch left out. The author is obliged to Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. for enabling him to comply with these flattering suggestions, and to Messrs. J. B. Wolters, the publishers of the English-Dutch edition, for their co-operation. He has availed himself of the opportunity to subject the whole work to a thorough revision, and to introduce a number of additions and textual alterations where these seemed to be called for.

As the French title well expresses it, this is a descriptive grammar of contemporary English. It deals with accidence and syntax, leaving aside what belongs rather to idiom and is not amenable to general statement. It likewise eschews historical digressions; contemporary and historical (or, in the terminology of modern linguistics, synchronic and diachronic) grammar are, in the author's opinion, best treated separately. In this, as in other respects, he confesses himself a pupil of Kruisinga, whose *Handbook of Present-day English*, despite certain extravagances in its fifth and final edition, is still the most original and stimulating treatment of English syntax.

While specific comparisons with Dutch usage have been removed, some of them have been replaced by references to other languages. They may help both British and continental students to realize some of the peculiar features of the English language. Identity is sometimes most clearly brought out by contrast. If I have anywhere erred by generalizing, I shall be glad to have instances pointed out to me.

As will be seen, this book contains numerous references to other publications. This is done deliberately, to impress upon the student the fact that a handbook is only a point of departure. If it has not roused his curiosity and encouraged him to further research, it has at least partly failed of its purpose.

Groningen

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NOTE ON THE SECOND TO FOURTH EDITIONS

THESE editions contain a number of corrections and additions, many of which are due to four important books on modern English that have recently appeared, viz. *Present-Day English Syntax*, by G. Scheurweghs (London, 1960), *The Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-Formation*, by H. Marchand (Wiesbaden, 1960), *Notions Essentielles d'Anglais*, by J. Zajicek (Paris, 1965), and *A Modern English Grammar*, by K. Schibsbye (London, 1965). For other improvements the author is indebted to reviewers of the first edition and to such experts as Dr. J. A. van Ek, Mr. P. A. Erades, Dr. J. Gerritsen, Mr. N. E. Osselton, M.A., Mr. J. Posthumus, Mr. P. M. Vermeer, and Dr. F. T. Wood, by whose articles in periodicals (*English Studies*, *Moderna Språk*) or private communications he has greatly profited.

R. W. ZANDVOORT

Amersfoort

NOTE ON THE FIFTH TO SEVENTH EDITIONS

THESE editions have benefited by the active collaboration of Dr. J. A. van Ek, whose assistance will also extend to any future editions. Valuable comments have again been contributed by Dr. J. Gerritsen, Mr. N. E. Osselton, M.A., and Mr. J. Posthumus.

R. W. ZANDVOORT

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