

UNDERSTANDING
AND USING

English
Grammar



FIFTH EDITION

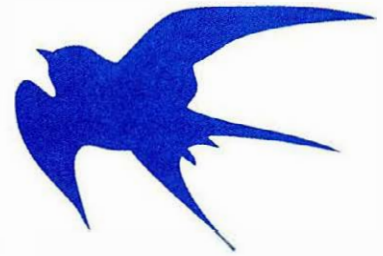


Pearson

Betty S. Azar
Stacy A. Hagen

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*To my beautiful grandsons,
Jude and Asa*

B.S.A.

For Andy and Julianna

S.H.

Contents

Preface to the Fifth Edition	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Chapter 1 PRESENT AND PAST; SIMPLE AND PROGRESSIVE	1
1-1 Simple Present and Present Progressive	2
1-2 Simple Present and Present Progressive: Affirmative, Negative, Question Forms	5
1-3 Verbs Not Usually Used in the Progressive (Stative Verbs)	7
1-4 Simple Past Tense	12
1-5 Simple Past vs. Past Progressive	16
1-6 Unfulfilled Intentions: <i>Was / Were Going To</i>	21
Chapter 2 PERFECT AND PERFECT PROGRESSIVE TENSES	25
2-1 Regular and Irregular Verbs	26
2-2 Irregular Verb List	26
2-3 Present Perfect: <i>Since</i> and <i>For</i>	29
2-4 Present Perfect: Unspecified Time and Repeated Events	31
2-5 <i>Have</i> and <i>Has</i> in Spoken English	35
2-6 Present Perfect vs. Simple Past	36
2-7 Present Perfect Progressive	40
2-8 Past Perfect	44
2-9 <i>Had</i> in Spoken English	46
2-10 Past Perfect Progressive	47
Chapter 3 FUTURE TIME	53
3-1 Simple Future: Forms of <i>Will</i> and <i>Be Going To</i>	54
3-2 <i>Will</i> vs. <i>Be Going To</i>	56
3-3 Expressing the Future in Time Clauses	60
3-4 Using the Present Progressive and the Simple Present to Express Future Time	62
3-5 Future Progressive	63
3-6 Future Perfect and Future Perfect Progressive	65
Chapter 4 REVIEW OF VERB TENSES	70
Chapter 5 SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT	78
5-1 Final <i>-s/-es</i> : Use and Spelling	79
5-2 Basic Subject-Verb Agreement	80

5-3	Collective Nouns	82
5-4	Subject-Verb Agreement: Using Expressions of Quantity	84
5-5	Subject-Verb Agreement: Using <i>There + Be</i>	86
5-6	Subject-Verb Agreement: Some Irregularities	88
Chapter 6	NOUNS	94
6-1	Regular and Irregular Plural Nouns	95
6-2	Nouns as Adjectives	98
6-3	Possessive Nouns	101
6-4	More About Expressing Possession.	103
6-5	Count and Noncount Nouns	105
6-6	Noncount Nouns	107
6-7	Some Common Noncount Nouns	107
6-8	Expressions of Quantity Used with Count and Noncount Nouns	110
6-9	Using <i>A Few</i> and <i>Few</i> ; <i>A Little</i> and <i>Little</i>	113
6-10	Singular Expressions of Quantity: <i>One, Each, Every</i>	115
6-11	Using <i>Of</i> in Expressions of Quantity.	117
Chapter 7	ARTICLES.	122
7-1	Articles (<i>A, An, The</i>) with Indefinite and Definite Nouns	123
7-2	Articles: Generic Nouns	125
7-3	Descriptive Information with Definite and Indefinite Nouns	128
7-4	General Guidelines for Article Usage	130
7-5	Using <i>The</i> or \emptyset with Titles and Geographic Names	134
Chapter 8	PRONOUNS	139
8-1	Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives	140
8-2	Agreement with Generic Nouns and Indefinite Pronouns.	145
8-3	Personal Pronouns: Agreement with Collective Nouns.	146
8-4	Reflexive Pronouns.	147
8-5	Using <i>You, One, and They</i> as Impersonal Pronouns.	151
8-6	Forms of <i>Other</i>	153
8-7	Common Expressions with <i>Other</i>	157
Chapter 9	MODALS, PART 1	161
9-1	Basic Modal Introduction.	162
9-2	Expressing Necessity: <i>Must, Have To, Have Got To</i>	163
9-3	Lack of Necessity (<i>Not Have To</i>) and Prohibition (<i>Must Not</i>)	165
9-4	Advisability/Suggestions: <i>Should, Ought To, Had Better, Could</i>	167
9-5	Expectation: <i>Be Supposed To/Should</i>	171
9-6	Ability: <i>Can, Know How To, and Be Able To</i>	173
9-7	Possibility: <i>Can, May, Might</i>	175
9-8	Requests and Responses with Modals.	176
9-9	Polite Requests with <i>Would You Mind</i>	177
9-10	Making Suggestions: <i>Let's, Why Don't, Shall I / We</i>	180
Chapter 10	MODALS, PART 2	184
10-1	Using <i>Would</i> to Express a Repeated Action in the Past	185
10-2	Expressing the Past: Necessity, Advisability, Expectation	187

10-3	Expressing Past Ability	191
10-4	Degrees of Certainty: Present Time	192
10-5	Degrees of Certainty: Present Time Negative.	194
10-6	Degrees of Certainty: Past Time	196
10-7	Degrees of Certainty: Future Time	199
10-8	Progressive Forms of Modals	201
10-9	Combining Modals with Phrasal Modals	205
10-10	Expressing Preference: <i>Would Rather</i>	207
10-11	Summary Chart of Modals and Similar Expressions.	208
Chapter 11	THE PASSIVE.	215
11-1	Active vs. Passive	216
11-2	Tense Forms of the Passive.	217
11-3	Using the Passive	219
11-4	The Passive Form of Modals and Phrasal Modals	225
11-5	Stative (Non-Progressive) Passive.	231
11-6	Common Stative (Non-Progressive) Passive Verbs + Prepositions.	234
11-7	The Passive with <i>Get</i>	238
11-8	<i>-ed/-ing</i> Adjectives.	241
Chapter 12	NOUN CLAUSES.	247
12-1	Introduction.	248
12-2	Noun Clauses with Question Words	249
12-3	Noun Clauses with <i>Whether</i> or <i>If</i>	253
12-4	Question Words Followed by Infinitives	256
12-5	Noun Clauses with <i>That</i>	257
12-6	Quoted Speech.	260
12-7	Reported Speech	262
12-8	Reported Speech: Modal Verbs in Noun Clauses.	264
12-9	The Subjunctive in Noun Clauses	267
Chapter 13	ADJECTIVE CLAUSES.	272
13-1	Adjective Clause Pronouns Used as the Subject	273
13-2	Adjective Clause Pronouns Used as the Object of a Verb	276
13-3	Adjective Clause Pronouns Used as the Object of a Preposition	278
13-4	Using <i>Whose</i>	280
13-5	Using <i>Where</i> in Adjective Clauses	282
13-6	Using <i>When</i> in Adjective Clauses	284
13-7	Using Adjective Clauses to Modify Pronouns	287
13-8	Punctuating Adjective Clauses	288
13-9	Using Expressions of Quantity in Adjective Clauses	292
13-10	Using <i>Which</i> to Modify a Whole Sentence	293
13-11	Reducing Adjective Clauses to Adjective Phrases	295
Chapter 14	GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES, PART 1	302
14-1	Gerunds and Infinitives: Introduction	303
14-2	Common Verbs Followed by Gerunds.	304
14-3	Common Verbs Followed by Infinitives.	306
14-4	Infinitives with Objects.	308

14-5	Common Verbs Followed by Either Infinitives or Gerunds	311
14-6	Using Gerunds as the Objects of Prepositions	316
14-7	<i>Go</i> + Gerund	321
14-8	Special Expressions Followed by <i>-ing</i>	323
14-9	<i>It</i> + Infinitive; Gerunds and Infinitives as Subjects	325
14-10	Reference List of Verbs Followed by Infinitives	327
14-11	Reference List of Verbs Followed by Gerunds	328
14-12	Reference List of Preposition Combinations Followed by Gerunds	329
Chapter 15	GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES, PART 2	334
15-1	Infinitive of Purpose: <i>In Order To</i>	335
15-2	Adjectives Followed by Infinitives	337
15-3	Using Infinitives with <i>Too</i> and <i>Enough</i>	339
15-4	Passive Infinitives and Gerunds: Present	340
15-5	Past Forms of Infinitives and Gerunds: Active and Passive	343
15-6	Using Gerunds or Passive Infinitives Following <i>Need</i>	345
15-7	Using Verbs of Perception	347
15-8	Using the Simple Form After <i>Let</i> and <i>Help</i>	348
15-9	Using Causative Verbs: <i>Make, Have, Get</i>	349
15-10	Using a Possessive to Modify a Gerund	352
Chapter 16	COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS	357
16-1	Parallel Structure	358
16-2	Parallel Structure: Using Commas	359
16-3	Punctuation for Independent Clauses; Connecting Them with <i>And</i> and <i>But</i>	362
16-4	Paired Conjunctions: <i>Both ... And; Not Only ... But Also;</i> <i>Either ... Or; Neither ... Nor</i>	364
Chapter 17	ADVERB CLAUSES	370
17-1	Introduction	371
17-2	Using Adverb Clauses to Show Time Relationships	373
17-3	Using Adverb Clauses to Show Cause and Effect	378
17-4	Expressing Contrast (Unexpected Result): Using <i>Even Though</i>	379
17-5	Showing Direct Contrast: <i>While</i>	381
17-6	Expressing Conditions in Adverb Clauses: <i>If</i> -Clauses	382
17-7	Shortened <i>If</i> -Clauses	383
17-8	Adverb Clauses of Condition: Using <i>Whether Or Not</i> and <i>Even If</i>	384
17-9	Adverb Clauses of Condition: Using <i>In Case</i>	386
17-10	Adverb Clauses of Condition: Using <i>Unless</i>	387
17-11	Adverb Clauses of Condition: Using <i>Only If</i>	388
Chapter 18	REDUCTION OF ADVERB CLAUSES TO MODIFYING ADVERBIAL PHRASES	392
18-1	Introduction	393
18-2	Changing Time Clauses to Modifying Adverbial Phrases	394
18-3	Expressing the Idea of “During the Same Time” in Modifying Adverbial Phrases	395
18-4	Expressing Cause and Effect in Modifying Adverbial Phrases	395
18-5	Using <i>Upon</i> + <i>-ing</i> in Modifying Adverbial Phrases	399

Chapter 19	CONNECTIVES THAT EXPRESS CAUSE AND EFFECT, CONTRAST, AND CONDITION	404
19-1	Introduction	405
19-2	Using <i>Because Of</i> and <i>Due To</i>	406
19-3	Cause and Effect: Using <i>Therefore</i> , <i>Consequently</i> , and <i>So</i>	408
19-4	Summary of Patterns and Punctuation	410
19-5	Other Ways of Expressing Cause and Effect: <i>Such ... That</i> and <i>So ... That</i>	412
19-6	Expressing Purpose: Using <i>So That</i>	414
19-7	Showing Contrast (Unexpected Result)	416
19-8	Showing Direct Contrast	418
19-9	Expressing Conditions: Using <i>Otherwise</i> and <i>Or (Else)</i>	420
Chapter 20	CONDITIONAL SENTENCES AND WISHES	426
20-1	Overview of Basic Verb Forms Used in Conditional Sentences	427
20-2	Expressing Real Conditions in the Present or Future	428
20-3	Unreal (Contrary to Fact) in the Present or Future	430
20-4	Unreal (Contrary to Fact) in the Past	432
20-5	Using Progressive Verb Forms in Conditional Sentences	438
20-6	Using “Mixed Time” in Conditional Sentences	440
20-7	Omitting <i>If</i>	441
20-8	Implied Conditions	443
20-9	Wishes About the Present and Past	445
20-10	Wishes About the Future; Use of <i>Wish</i> + <i>Would</i>	448
Appendix	SUPPLEMENTARY GRAMMAR CHARTS	452
Unit A:	Basic Grammar Terminology	452
A-1	Subjects, Verbs, and Objects	452
A-2	Adjectives	452
A-3	Adverbs	453
A-4	Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases	453
A-5	Preposition Combinations with Adjectives and Verbs	454
Unit B:	Questions	455
B-1	Forms of <i>Yes/No</i> and Information Questions	455
B-2	Question Words	456
B-3	Shortened <i>Yes/No</i> Questions	458
B-4	Negative Questions	458
B-5	Tag Questions	459
Unit C:	Contractions	460
Unit D:	Negatives	461
D-1	Using <i>Not</i> and Other Negative Words	461
D-2	Avoiding Double Negatives	461
D-3	Beginning a Sentence with a Negative Word	461
Unit E:	Verbs	462
E-1	The Verb <i>Be</i>	462
E-2	Spelling of <i>-ing</i> and <i>-ed</i> Verb Forms	462
E-3	Overview of Verb Tenses	463

E-4	Summary of Verb Tenses	465
E-5	Regular Verbs: Pronunciation of <i>-ed</i> Endings	466
E-6	Pronunciation of Final <i>-s</i> in Verbs and Nouns	466
E-7	Linking Verbs	467
E-8	Troublesome Verbs: <i>Raise/Rise, Set/Sit, Lay/Lie</i>	467
E-9	Irregular Verbs: An Alphabetical Reference List	468
	Listening Script	471
	Index	481
	Credits	491



Preface to the Fifth Edition

Understanding and Using English Grammar is a developmental skills text for intermediate to advanced English language learners. It functions principally as a classroom teaching text but also serves as a comprehensive reference text for students and teachers.

Understanding and Using English Grammar takes a time-tested approach that blends direct grammar instruction with carefully sequenced practice to develop all language skills. Grammar is viewed as an organizing system to help students make sense of the language they see and hear, rather than as a mere collection of rules. This perspective provides a natural, logical framework for students to make English their own.

This edition has been extensively revised to keep pace with advances in theory and practice. Every aspect of the previous edition was reviewed, including the charts, exercises, and sequencing of grammar points. We are excited to introduce significant new features and updates:

- **New as well as updated grammar charts based on corpus research** reflect current usage and highlight the differences between written and spoken English in informal and formal contexts.
- **Pretests at the start of chapters** let learners check what they already know and orient themselves to the chapter content.
- **A wide range of thematic exercises** provides opportunities for contextualized language use.
- **A variety of new readings** covers current topics, strategies for student success, study skills, and other academic and practical content.
- **More meaning-based and step-by-step practice** helps learners better grasp concepts underlying the target grammar.
- **Article use (*a, the, an*)** is now the focus of an entire chapter.
- **New guided writing activities** are supported by writing tips and editing tasks.
- **Self-study practice for gerunds and infinitives** has been added, beginning with Chapter 1, so that students can learn at their own pace.
- **A fresh design** includes a generous use of photos to add interest and serve as the basis for fluency practice.
- **A large increase in the number of exercises** supports teachers who would prefer not to supplement.
- **Three topics, absent in the Fourth Edition, are back in the Fifth Edition:** *The Subjunctive in Noun Clauses, Past Forms of Infinitives and Gerunds, and Using a Possessive to Modify a Gerund.*

Now more than ever, teachers will find that they can select from an extensive repertoire of presentations, activities, and tasks depending on the specific needs of their classes. To accommodate all of the new material, some Fourth Edition content has been moved to MyEnglishLab.