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BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR



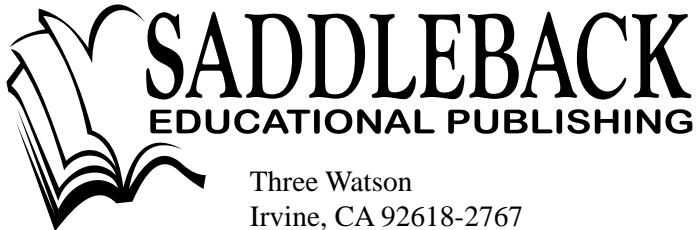
for English Language Learners

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BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR

for English Language Learners

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Introduction

Grammar is a very old field of study. Did you know that the sentence was first divided into subject and verb by Plato, the famed philosopher from ancient Greece? That was about 2,400 years ago! Ever since then, students all over the world have found it worthwhile to study the structure of words and sentences. Why? Because skill in speaking and writing is the hallmark of all educated people.

Lesson by lesson, this book provides basic instruction in the eight parts of speech—nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections—as well as the standard patterns of English sentences.

All students of English, be they native speakers or those who are studying English as a second language, will profit from the fundamental introduction and review of grammar provided by SADDLEBACK'S BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR 1 and 2. Helpful marginal notes throughout the books have been provided to reinforce existing skills and call attention to common problem areas.

We wish you every success in your pursuit of English proficiency.

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1

What is Grammar?

Here's an old children's rhyme about the eight parts of speech of English grammar. It gives you an idea of what grammar is about. Read and remember it.



Every name is called a **noun**,
As *field* and *fountain*, *street* and *town*.

Pronoun

In place of noun the **pronoun** stands,
As *he* and *she* can clap their hands.



Adjective

The **adjective** describes a thing,
As *magic* wand or *bridal* ring.

Most **verbs** mean action, something done,
To *read* and *write*, to *jump* and *run*.

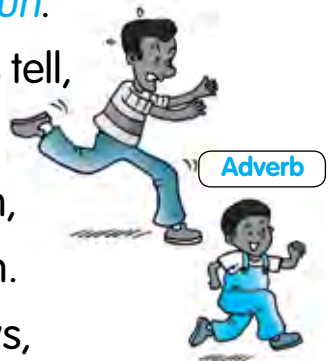
Verb

How things are done the **adverbs** tell,

As *quickly*, *slowly*, *badly*, *well*.



The **preposition** shows relation,
As *in* the street or *at* the station.



Adverb

Conjunctions join, in many ways,

Sentences, words, *or* phrase *and* phrase.

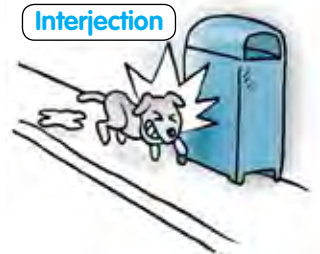


Conjunction

The **interjection** cries out, "*Heed!*"

An exclamation point must
follow me!"

Interjection



2

The Capital Letter

The **capital letter** is also called a **big letter** or **upper-case** letter, or sometimes just a **capital**.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

When do you use a capital letter?

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the first letter in a sentence:

The dog is barking.

Come here!

- ▶ Always use a capital letter for the word **I**:

I am eight years old.

Tom and **I** are good friends.

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the names of people:

Alice, **T**om, **J**ames, **K**im, **S**now **W**hite

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the names of places:

National **M**useum, **B**ronx **Z**oo, **L**ondon, **S**acramento

- ▶ Use a capital letter for festivals, holidays, days of the week, months of the year:

New **Y**ear's **D**ay, **C**hristmas, **L**abor **D**ay, **M**other's **D**ay,
Sunday, **M**onday, **F**riday, **J**anuary, **M**ay, **J**uly, **O**ctober



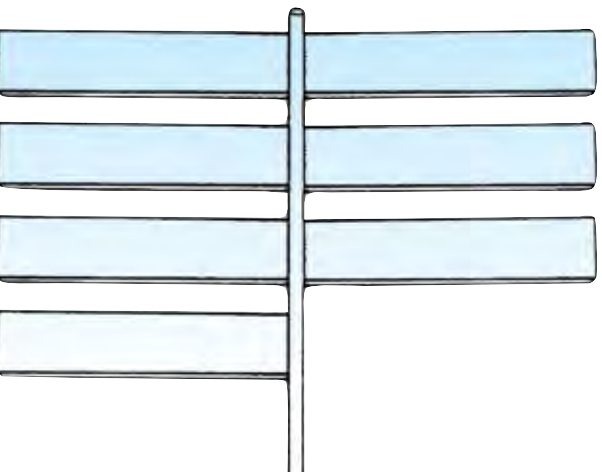
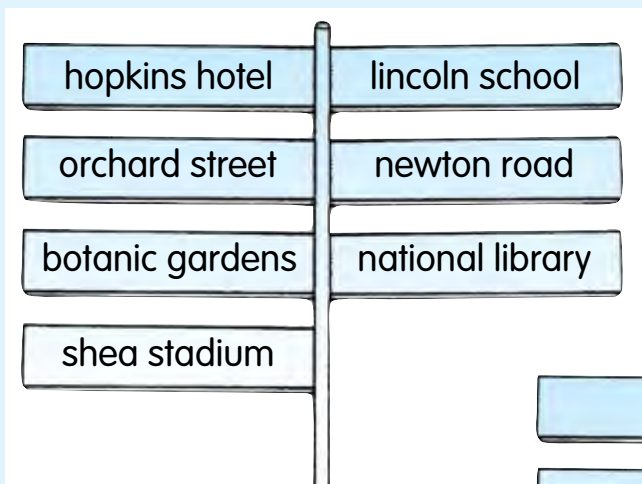
Exercise 1

Circle the letters that should be CAPITALS. Then write the correct letter in the space above them.

- 1 peter and i are good friends.
- 2 we are going to chicago during our summer vacation.
- 3 there is an interesting football game on sunday.
- 4 jason lives on thomson avenue.
- 5 january is the first month of the year.

Exercise 2

Look at the signs on the left. Can you find the mistakes? Write the names correctly.



3

Nouns

Common Nouns

Nouns are divided into **common nouns** and **proper nouns**. **Common nouns** are words for people, animals, places, or things.

These are words for people. They are common nouns.



artist



clown

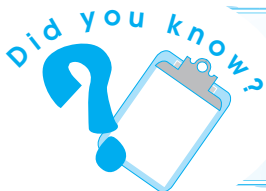
acrobat

Word File

Here are more words for people:

actor	lawyer
aunt	judge
baby	man
baker	nurse
cook	police officer
dentist	singer
doctor	soldier
giant	teacher

astronaut



Another word for **astronaut** is **spaceman** or **spacewoman**.



These are words for animals. They are common nouns.

eagle



zebra

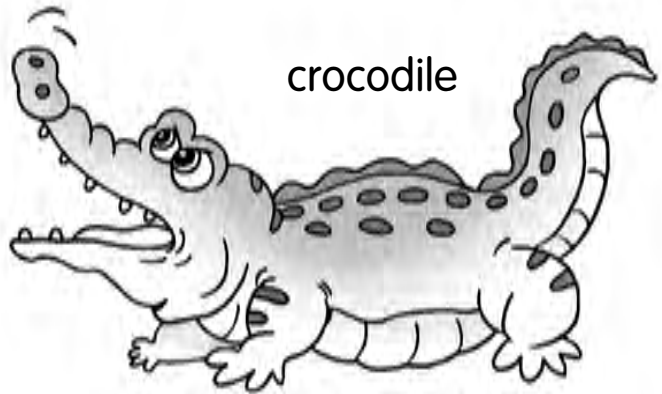


deer



bird

crocodile



bear



Word File

Here are more words for animals:

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| cat | goose |
| cow | hen |
| dog | horse |
| dolphin | mouse |
| duck | parrot |
| fish | shark |
| goat | whale |