

Real English Grammar

Introduction

To the teacher

This book is designed for both self-study and classroom use by intermediate to upper intermediate level students.

It is organised according to grammatical categories (*nouns, articles, tenses, adjectives* etc), except where some units focus on a lexical area as a more practical way of dealing with specific grammatical problems (for example, the use of certain prepositions and of specific modals such as **would** and **could**).

The book is organised in such a way that the 'fundamental' issues of grammar (*nouns, articles, and verbs*) are all dealt with in the first units of the book. Students can work through the book from beginning to end, or they can be asked to dip into it to deal with specific grammatical problems that they are experiencing.

There are passages of real English at the beginning of each unit which are designed to give the student a 'feel' of how the grammatical or lexical area is used in a real context. These texts can be read by students individually, or they can be read aloud to the class, or you can play the audio CD which can be used with this book to hear the texts read by native speakers at a natural speed.

In each unit, there are generally two pages of grammatical explanations with plenty of examples, and then two pages of exercises. All the exercises are set in real contexts, and often with characters that recur throughout the book who students may come to recognise and to identify with.

At the back of the book there are tables of *verb forms, irregular plurals, a pronunciation guide, a guide to the structure of English sentences*, and a brief look at *American English* for the students to refer to if they need to.

The answers to the exercises are all contained in the booklet inside the back cover of the book which you may let the students keep or not, as you choose.

To the student

This book is for learners of English who have already learnt the basics of English grammar and who need to develop a deeper understanding of how English is used. You can start at the beginning and work through the book if you want to, or you can choose any grammar topic that you think you need to study, as the units are all self-contained. The texts at the beginning of each unit should be read straight through to get a sense of their meaning, and you can also hear them read aloud on the audio CD; then you can look at them more closely to see how the language is used, in terms of the grammar focus of the unit. The grammar explanation boxes all have clear headings so you can choose exactly what you want to work on in each unit.

Most of the exercises tell a story or are a conversation in progress. They test the grammar focus of the unit and they also help you to learn more about how English is used in everyday life. When you have finished them, you can use the handy answer key booklet inside the back cover to check your answers.

At the end of the book there are useful lists of *irregular verbs* and of *plural nouns*. There is also a pronunciation guide and information on the structure of English sentences and of terms such as *adjective* and *modal*, and some brief notes on the differences between British and American English grammar.

I had a lot of fun writing this book, and I hope you will enjoy getting to know the characters and reading about their lives and enjoy getting a better understanding of real spoken and written English.

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