

Contents in Brief

List of Figures	xvi
List of Tables	xvii
Preface	xix
Introduction	1
1 Writing It and Saying It	8
2 American History for Language Students	25
3 Running America: Government and Education	53
4 Life and Language in the United States	69
5 American English Vocabulary: A Systematic View	93
6 <i>Caught Out or Caught Off Base?</i> Metaphors in American English	130
7 The Grammar of American English	146
8 Using English in the United States	179
9 Varieties of American English	206
10 Language Politics in the United States: English and Other Languages	232
Bibliography	247
Linguistic Glossary	255
Index of Alphabetisms and Acronyms	260
Index of Zip Codes for States	263
Subject Index	264
Word Index	274

Contents in Detail

List of Figures	xvi
List of Tables	xvii
Preface	xix
Introduction	1
RECOMMENDED READING	7
1 Writing It and Saying It	8
1.1 Introduction	8
1.2 Writing American or British	8
1.3 The Pronunciation of American English	12
1.3.1 Individual sounds	16
1.3.2 Stress	19
RECOMMENDED READING	23
DICTIONARIES	24
2 American History for Language Students	25
2.1 Introduction	25
2.2 Geography: Background	27
2.3 Before English	28
2.4 The Colonial Period	28
2.5 From Independence to Civil War	34
2.5.1 Territorial expansion	34
2.5.2 The Civil War 1861–5	37
2.6 After the Civil War	39
2.6.1 Reconstruction in the South 1865–77	39
2.6.2 The situation of African Americans	40

2.6.3	Further territorial expansion	42
2.6.4	Industrial and financial expansion; immigration	43
2.6.5	Social problems and labor relations	44
2.6.6	The women's movement	45
2.6.7	Religious movements and Fundamentalism	46
2.6.8	Foreign politics	47
2.6.9	Domestic politics in the twentieth century	48
2.6.9.1	<i>Prohibition</i>	48
2.6.9.2	<i>The Great Depression and the New Deal</i>	49
2.6.9.3	<i>McCarthyism</i>	50
2.6.9.4	<i>Population development</i>	50
	RECOMMENDED READING	52
	WEBSITES	52
3	Running America: Government and Education	53
3.1	<i>Introduction</i>	53
3.2	<i>Government according to the US Constitution</i>	54
3.2.1	The amendments	56
3.2.2	Governmental institutions	58
3.3	<i>Political Parties</i>	59
3.4	<i>Elections</i>	60
3.5	<i>State and Local Government</i>	61
3.6	<i>Education</i>	62
3.6.1	Public schools	62
3.6.2	Higher education	64
3.6.2.1	<i>Universities</i>	64
3.6.2.2	<i>Course of study and degrees</i>	65
3.6.2.3	<i>Faculty</i>	66
3.6.2.4	<i>Other types of higher education</i>	67
3.6.2.5	<i>Life on campus</i>	67
	RECOMMENDED READING	68
	WEBSITE	68
4	Life and Language in the United States	69
4.1	<i>Introduction</i>	69
4.2	<i>Holidays</i>	70
4.3	<i>Eating in America, Shopping and Paying</i>	71
4.4	<i>Living Quarters</i>	80
4.5	<i>What to Wear</i>	81
4.6	<i>Getting Around</i>	82

4.7	Names in North America	86
4.7.1	Place names	86
4.7.2	Personal names	89
4.8	Life and Language	91
	RECOMMENDED READING	92
5	American English Vocabulary: A Systematic View	93
5.1	Introduction	93
5.2	What is an Americanism?	94
5.3	How Can We Find Out about Differences between American and British English?	94
5.3.1	Dictionaries	95
5.3.2	Corpora	97
5.4	A Typology of Differences	100
5.4.1	A form-based classification	100
5.4.1.1	<i>Type 1: Words with the same basic meaning in British and American English but with differences in style, connotation, or frequency</i>	100
5.4.1.2	<i>Type 2: Words that share a basic meaning but which have developed additional meanings in one or both varieties</i>	100
5.4.1.3	<i>Type 3: Words that used to have a common meaning but which now have different meanings in the two varieties</i>	101
5.4.1.4	<i>Type 4: Words, collocations and idioms that are used only or predominantly in one variety</i>	102
5.4.2	A classification based on semantic categories	103
5.5	Slang	103
5.6	Enlarging and Changing the Vocabulary	105
5.6.1	Combining	107
5.6.1.1	Compounds	107
5.6.1.2	Affixation (prefixation and suffixation)	109
5.6.2	Blends	110
5.6.3	Shifting	111
5.6.4	Shortening	112
5.6.4.1	Alphabetisms	113
5.6.4.2	Acronyms	118
5.6.4.3	Clippings	118
5.6.4.4	Internet language: E-mail and chatrooms	119
5.6.4.5	Number symbol	120

5.6.5	Loanwords	120
5.6.5.1	<i>Loanwords from Native American languages</i>	120
5.6.5.2	<i>Dutch loanwords</i>	121
5.6.5.3	<i>French loanwords</i>	122
5.6.5.4	<i>German loanwords</i>	122
5.6.5.5	<i>Loanwords from African languages</i>	123
5.6.5.6	<i>Italian loanwords</i>	123
5.6.5.7	<i>Spanish loanwords</i>	123
5.6.5.8	<i>Yiddish loanwords</i>	124
5.6.5.9	<i>Japanese loanwords</i>	124
5.6.5.10	<i>Hawaiian and other Pacific loanwords</i>	125
5.6.6	Creations and words of unknown origin	125
	RECOMMENDED READING	127
	SOME USEFUL DICTIONARIES	128
	CORPORA	129
6	<i>Caught Out or Caught Off Base? Metaphors in American English</i>	130
6.1	<i>Introduction</i>	130
6.2	<i>Money and Business Metaphors</i>	133
6.3	<i>Food Metaphors</i>	134
6.4	<i>Sports Metaphors</i>	135
6.5	<i>Transportation Metaphors: Trains, Cars, and Highways</i>	138
6.6	<i>Gun Metaphors</i>	141
6.7	<i>Political Metaphors</i>	143
6.8	<i>Spatial Metaphors: Where It's At</i>	143
	RECOMMENDED READING	145
7	The Grammar of American English	146
7.1	<i>Introduction</i>	146
7.2	<i>Nouns and Articles</i>	148
7.2.1	Articles	148
7.2.2	The genitive	148
7.2.3	Number	149
7.2.4	Concord/Agreement	149
7.3	<i>Verbs and Auxiliaries</i>	150
7.3.1	Verb forms (morphology)	150
7.3.2	Auxiliaries, modals and related verbs	152
7.3.2.1	<i>Auxiliaries</i>	153
7.3.2.2	<i>Modal verbs</i>	154

7.3.2.3	<i>Marginal modals: Dare, need, used to, ought to</i>	156
7.3.2.4	<i>Semi-modals/Catenative verbs</i>	158
7.3.2.5	<i>The pro-verb do</i>	159
7.3.3	Verb complementation	159
7.3.4	Aspect and tense	160
7.3.5	Phrasal verbs	161
7.3.6	Activo-passives	162
7.3.7	The mandative subjunctive	163
7.3.8	Tag questions	163
7.3.9	Questions with <i>How come?</i>	164
7.4	Pronouns	164
7.4.1	Personal pronouns	164
7.4.2	Demonstrative pronouns	165
7.4.3	Relative pronouns and other relative markers	165
7.4.4	Indefinite pronouns	166
7.5	Adjectives	167
7.5.1	Placement and function	167
7.5.2	Adjectives as heads of noun phrases	167
7.6	Adverbs and Adverbials	168
7.6.1	Adverb or adjective?	168
7.6.2	Indefinite adverbs: <i>Someplace, anyplace, noplac</i> e	169
7.6.3	Special uses of adverbs: <i>Sure, enough, ever</i>	169
7.6.3.1	Sure	169
7.6.3.2	Enough	170
7.6.3.3	Ever	170
7.6.4	Adverb placement	170
7.7	Prepositions	171
7.8	Conjunctions	175
7.9	Concluding Remarks	176
	RECOMMENDED HANDBOOKS	178
8	Using English in the United States	179
8.1	Introduction	179
8.2	Spoken Interaction	180
8.2.1	What can you talk about?	180
8.2.2	Openings and closings	181
8.2.3	Making the right noises: Vocalizations and marginal words	182
8.2.4	Backchannels	185

8.2.5	Discourse markers and hedges	187
8.2.6	Verbs of saying, "quotatives"	188
8.2.7	Telephone calls	189
8.3	<i>Politeness in Interaction: Talking to Others</i>	190
8.3.1	Thanking	191
8.3.2	Excuses and apologies	191
8.3.3	Forms of address	192
8.3.4	Compliments	192
8.3.5	Self-assertiveness in conversation	194
8.3.6	Expressions of emotions, swearing and cursing	194
8.4	<i>Politeness and Political Correctness: Talking about Others</i>	197
8.4.1	Gender and language	197
8.4.2	Ethnic minorities	200
8.4.3	Sexual minorities	202
8.4.4	Other minorities	202
8.4.5	Political correctness	203
	RECOMMENDED READING	204
	CORPUS	205
9	Varieties of American English	206
9.1	<i>Introduction: Regional and Social Variation in Language</i>	206
9.2	<i>Dialectology and Sociolinguistics</i>	208
9.3	<i>Regional Dialects</i>	209
9.3.1	The Northeast	209
9.3.2	The South	211
	9.3.2.1 <i>Phonology</i>	211
	9.3.2.2 <i>Grammar</i>	212
	9.3.2.3 <i>Vocabulary</i>	213
9.3.3	Features of other American Dialects	214
9.4	<i>Social Varieties (Sociolects)</i>	214
9.4.1	Sociolinguistic variation in New York City	215
9.4.2	Widespread non-standard features	217
9.5	<i>Ethnic Varieties</i>	218
9.5.1	Black English/African American Vernacular English	218
	9.5.1.1 <i>Phonology</i>	220
	9.5.1.2 <i>Grammar</i>	221
	9.5.1.3 <i>Vocabulary</i>	225

9.5.1.4	<i>Who speaks AAVE?</i>	226
9.5.1.5	<i>The origins of AAVE</i>	227
9.5.1.6	<i>AAVE and Standard English today</i>	227
9.5.2	<i>Chicano English</i>	228
9.5.3	<i>Other ethnic varieties</i>	229
9.6	<i>Varieties and Standards</i>	229
	RECOMMENDED READING	230
	WEBSITES	231
10	Language Politics in the United States:	
	English and Other Languages	232
10.1	<i>Introduction</i>	232
10.2	<i>Population Structure and Linguistic Diversity</i>	233
10.3	<i>Native American Languages</i>	233
10.4	<i>Immigrant Languages</i>	234
10.5	<i>Language Politics in the United States</i>	237
10.5.1	Language and education: A historical survey	237
10.5.2	For "Official English"	240
10.5.3	Against "English Only"	240
10.5.4	Arguments in the debate	241
10.5.5	English language laws	243
10.5.6	Bilingual education: The case of California	244
10.6	<i>American English in the United States and in the World</i>	245
	RECOMMENDED READING	246
	WEBSITES	246
	<i>Bibliography</i>	247
	<i>Linguistic Glossary</i>	255
	<i>Index of Alphabetisms and Acronyms</i>	260
	<i>Index of Zip Codes for States</i>	263
	<i>Subject Index</i>	264
	<i>Word Index</i>	274