
Contents

Symbols	xvi
Acknowledgements	xix
Introduction to the second edition	xx
I STANDARD ENGLISH AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	I
1.1 The meanings of <i>grammar</i> and <i>English</i>	1
1.1.1 'Grammar is "correct" English'	1
1.1.2 'Standard English is the English language'	1
1.1.3 'The English language consists of all its dialects'	2
1.1.4 Descriptive and prescriptive grammar	3
1.2 Shibboleths	4
1.2.1 Shibboleths in pronunciation	5
1.2.2 Shibboleths in vocabulary and grammar	7
1.3 Rules of grammar	9
1.3.1 Rules in descriptive grammar	9
1.3.2 Proscriptive rules – 'what you may not do'	9
1.3.2.1 'You may not split the infinitive'	10
1.3.2.2 'You may not begin a sentence with <i>hopefully</i> '	10
1.3.2.3 'You may not begin a sentence with <i>and</i> or <i>but</i> '	10
1.3.2.4 'You must use <i>until</i> , not <i>till</i> '	11
1.4 Teaching spoken Standard English	11
2 ENCODING EXPERIENCE IN LANGUAGE	16
2.1 Some properties of language	16
2.1.1 Language, speech and writing	16
2.1.2 Language as a game	16
2.1.3 Language as a system	16
2.2 Words	17
2.2.1 Words and strings	17
2.2.2 When is a word not a word?	17

2.3	Morphemes and syllables	19
2.3.1	Morphemes	19
2.3.2	Syllables	20
2.4	Sentences and phrases	21
2.5	Meaning	21
2.6	Phrases as constituents of sentences	22
2.7	Processes, participants and circumstances	23
2.8	Clauses	28
2.9	The rank scale	29
2.10	How clauses make sense	30
2.11	How meaning and grammar are related	30
2.12	Form and function	32
2.13	Word order	33
2.14	Summary	34
3	LEXICAL WORDS AND MEANING	36
3.1	Word-classes	36
3.2	Nouns	37
3.2.1	Number	38
3.2.1.1	Singular and plural, count nouns	38
3.2.1.2	Mass (non-count) nouns	39
3.2.1.3	Concrete and abstract nouns	39
3.2.1.4	Irregular plurals	40
3.2.2	Possessive case	42
3.3	Verbs	42
3.3.1	Tense – past and present	43
3.3.2	Finite (tensed) verbs	44
3.3.3	Infinitive and participles; nonfinite (non-tensed) verbs	45
3.3.3.1	The <i>to</i> -infinitive	45
3.3.3.2	The bare infinitive	45
3.3.3.3	The <i>-ing</i> or present participle	45
3.3.3.4	The <i>-en/-ed</i> or past participle	45
3.3.4	Forms of verbs in StE	46
3.3.4.1	The verb <i>be</i>	46
3.3.4.2	Forms of regular verbs	46
3.3.4.3	Forms of irregular verbs	46
3.3.5	Forms of verbs in regional dialects	47
3.3.5.1	Present tense	47
3.3.5.2	Past tense and <i>-en/-ed</i> participle	47
3.3.5.3	The verb <i>be</i> in the dialects	49
3.3.5.4	A note on social class and dialect	50
3.4	Adjectives	50
3.4.1	Adjectives as modifiers and complements	50
3.4.2	Adjectives and nouns as complements	51
3.4.3	Nouns as modifiers	52
3.4.4	Participles as adjectives	53

3.4.5	Comparative and superlative	54
3.4.5.1	Nonstandard double comparatives and superlatives	56
3.4.5.2	<i>Taller than I?</i> or <i>Taller than me?</i>	56
3.5	Adverbs	56
3.5.1	The functions of adverbs	56
3.5.2	The forms of adverbs	60
3.5.3	A note on <i>hopefully</i> as a sentence adverb	61
3.5.4	A note on 'splitting the infinitive' with an adverb	62
3.6	Summary	64
4	FUNCTION WORDS	66
4.1	Prepositions	66
4.1.1	Prepositions in the regional dialects	68
4.2	Pronouns	69
4.2.1	Pronouns and referents	69
4.2.2	Pronouns and NPs	72
4.2.3	Person, number and gender	72
4.2.4	Pronouns, gender and masculine bias	73
4.2.5	Case in personal pronouns	76
4.2.6	Pronouns in the regional dialects	77
4.2.6.1	Historical <i>ye/you/your/yours</i> and <i>thou/thee/thy/thine</i>	77
4.2.6.2	Dialectal <i>ye/you/your/yours</i> and <i>thou/thee/thy/thine</i>	78
4.2.6.3	Different uses of the personal pronouns in regional dialects	79
4.2.7	Reflexive pronouns	80
4.2.7.1	Reflexive pronouns in regional dialects	81
4.2.8	Possessive pronouns as determiners and NPs	81
4.2.9	Demonstrative pronouns	82
4.2.9.1	Demonstrative pronouns in regional dialects	82
4.2.10	Pronouns meaning <i>all</i> or <i>some</i> or <i>none</i>	83
4.2.10.1	Dialectal forms of <i>something</i> and <i>nothing</i>	84
4.2.11	Relative pronouns in StE	84
4.2.12	Pronouns in fiction	85
4.3	Conjunctions	85
4.3.1	Coordinating conjunctions <i>and</i> , <i>but</i> , or	86
4.3.1.1	<i>But</i> in northern dialects	87
4.3.2	Subordinating conjunctions	88
4.4	Other function words	89
4.4.1	Determiners	89
4.4.2	Auxiliary verbs	89
4.4.2.1	Modal verbs	89
4.4.2.2	Primary verbs	89
4.5	Summary	90
5	VOCABULARY	91
5.1	Core vocabulary	91
5.2	The sources of the core vocabulary of English	92
5.3	The sources of non-core vocabulary	94

5.4	Informal vocabulary – dialectal, colloquial and slang	99
	Appendix – Data from the three texts	101
6	SIX KINDS OF PHRASE	104
6.1	Revision – sentence, clause and phrase in the rank scale	104
6.1.1	Sentences	104
6.1.2	Clauses	105
6.1.3	Noun phrases (NPs)	105
6.1.4	Prepositional phrases (PrepPs)	106
6.2	NPs and PrepPs in text 1	106
6.2.1	Head words	106
6.2.2	Determiners	107
6.2.3	Head words without a determiner	107
6.2.4	Modifiers	107
6.2.5	Qualifiers	107
6.2.6	Pre-determiners	107
6.2.7	NPs as complements of PrepPs	108
6.3	NPs and PrepPs in text 2	108
6.3.1	Relative clauses as qualifiers	109
6.3.2	NP and PrepP structures in text 2	109
6.3.3	Possessive phrases	110
6.4	NPs and PrepPs in text 3	111
6.4.1	Nonfinite clauses as qualifiers	111
6.4.2	Recursion	111
6.5	Verb phrases (VPs) in text 1	113
6.5.1	Tense	114
6.5.1.1	Present and past tense; present, past and future time	114
6.5.1.2	Tense, aspect and modal verbs in VPs	115
	(a) Simple present and past tense	115
	(b) <i>be</i> as an auxiliary verb – progressive aspect and passive voice	115
	(c) <i>have</i> as an auxiliary verb – perfect aspect	115
	(d) Modal verbs	115
	(e) Predicators in phrase	116
6.5.1.3	Nonfinite verbs	116
6.6	Text 2 VPs	116
6.6.1	VP structures in text 2	117
6.6.2	Summary of VP forms	117
6.7	VPs in text 3	119
6.8	Adjective phrases (AdjPs)	120
6.8.1	AdjPs in text 1	120
6.8.2	AdjPs in text 2	121
6.8.3	AdjPs in text 3	122
6.9	Adverbs and adverb phrases (AdvPs)	123
6.9.1	AdvPs in text 1	123
6.9.2	AdvPs in text 2	124
6.9.3	AdvPs in text 3	125

7	NOUN AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES	127
7.1	Revision – six kinds of phrase	127
7.2	NPs and PrepPs in news headlines	129
7.2.1	Pre-modifiers (i) – adjective and noun modifiers (m)	129
7.2.2	Pre-modifiers (ii) – determiners (d) and possessive phrases (d-Poss)	131
7.2.2.1	Determiners	131
7.2.2.2	Possessive phrases as determiners	132
7.2.2.3	Pre-determiners	133
7.2.2.4	Numerals	133
7.2.3	The order of pre-modifiers	133
7.2.4	Post-head modifiers, or qualifiers (q) – PrepPs	135
7.2.5	NPs in PrepPs and PrepPs in NPs	137
7.2.6	PrepPs embedded in PrepPs	138
7.2.7	Nonfinite clauses embedded in NPs	139
7.3	NPs and PrepPs as constituents of clauses	141
7.4	NPs and PrepPs in texts	143
7.4.1	<i>Animal Farm</i> – NPs and PrepPs	143
7.4.2	<i>Animal Farm</i> – relative clauses as qualifiers	144
7.4.3	NPs and PrepPs in academic writing	146
7.5	Summary	148
8	VERB PHRASES	149
8.1	Present and past tense	149
8.1.1	Tense in main verbs	149
8.2	Auxiliary verbs – <i>be</i>	153
8.3	Auxiliary verbs – <i>have</i>	154
8.4	Auxiliary verbs – <i>do</i>	155
8.4.1	Asking questions – interrogative mood	156
8.4.1.1	<i>wh</i> -interrogatives	156
8.4.1.2	yes/no interrogatives	157
8.4.2	Expressing the negative in StE	158
8.4.3	Expressing the negative in the dialects	159
8.4.3.1	Multiple negatives	159
8.4.3.2	Never as a negative marker	160
8.4.3.3	Negative suffix <i>-na/-nae</i>	160
8.4.3.4	A note on <i>ain't</i>	161
8.4.4	Emphasis	161
8.4.5	Tags	162
8.4.6	After semi-negatives	162
8.4.7	Marking simple present or past tense	162
8.5	Auxiliary verbs – modals	163
8.5.1	Modals in the dialects	168
8.6	Semi-auxiliary and catenative verbs	168
8.6.1	Semi-auxiliaries	168
8.6.2	Catenatives	169
8.6.3	Auxiliary or catenative verb?	170

8.7	Predicators in phase in VP structure	170
8.8	Aspect	171
8.8.1	Progressive aspect	171
8.8.2	Perfect aspect	172
8.8.3	Tense and aspect	173
8.9	Word order in VPs	173
8.10	Voice	174
8.10.1	Using the passive	177
8.10.2	Voice and aspect together	178
8.11	Nonfinite VPs	178
9	CLAUSES	180
	Recapitulation	180
9.1	Transitivity	180
9.1.1	Transactive and non-transactive processes	180
9.1.2	Transitive and intransitive clauses	181
9.2	Mood	181
9.2.1	Declarative mood – ‘ <i>I’m telling you this</i> ’	181
9.2.2	Interrogative mood – ‘ <i>I’m asking you this</i> ’	182
9.2.3	Imperative mood – ‘ <i>I want you to do this</i> ’	183
9.3	Kernel clauses	184
9.4	Subject and complements in kernel clauses	185
9.4.1	Subject	185
9.4.2	Complements (1) – object (O)	186
9.4.3	Complements (2) – intensive (Ci)	187
9.5	Kernel clauses in a simple text	189
9.5.1	Identifying the clauses	189
9.5.2	Identifying clause constituents	189
9.5.3	Labelling constituent form	190
9.5.4	Complements (3) – adverbial (Ca)	191
9.5.4.1	Adverbial complement or peripheral adverbial?	192
9.5.5	Adverbial complements and the predicator	193
9.5.6	Phrasal and prepositional verbs	194
9.5.6.1	Phrasal verbs	194
9.5.6.2	Prepositional verbs	195
9.5.6.3	Phrasal-prepositional verbs	196
9.6	Labelling constituent function	197
9.6.1	Types of process in the text	198
9.6.1.1	Relational clauses	198
9.6.1.2	Actional process clauses	198
9.6.1.3	Mental process clauses	199
9.6.2	Some transformations – derived clauses	199
9.6.2.1	A special kind of relational – existential <i>there</i>	199
9.6.2.2	Predicators in phase	200
9.6.2.3	Nonfinite clauses	200
9.7	The original text	201

9.8	More clause structure constituents	201
9.8.1	Direct and indirect objects	203
9.8.1.1	Variation in the order of direct and indirect object pronouns	205
9.8.2	Intensive complements referring to the object	206
9.9	Summary of kernel clause patterns	207
9.10	Analysis of a text	209
9.10.1	Division into constituent clauses	209
10	COMPLEXITY IN CLAUSE CONSTITUENTS	215
10.1	Complex and derived clauses	215
10.2	Complexity within phrases	215
10.2.1	Subordination within NPs and PrepPs	215
10.2.1.1	Phrases embedded in NP and PrepP structure	215
10.2.1.2	Nonfinite clauses embedded in NP and PrepP structure	217
10.2.1.3	Nonfinite clause complements in PrepPs – prepositional clauses	218
10.2.1.4	Restrictive relative clauses	219
(a)	Relative pronoun as subject	219
(b)	Relative pronoun as object	220
(c)	Relative pronoun as PrepP complement	221
(d)	Relative adverbial	222
10.2.1.5	Non-restrictive relative clauses	223
10.2.1.6	Relative pronouns and RelCIs in the regional dialects	223
10.2.2	Coordination within NPs and PrepPs	225
10.2.3	Apposition	229
10.2.4	Complex AdjPs and AdvPs	230
10.2.5	Complexity in the VP	232
10.3	Summary	234
II	COMPLEX CLAUSES	235
II.1	Subordinate nonfinite clauses	235
II.1.1	Nonfinite prepositional clauses	235
II.1.2	Nonfinite <i>-ing</i> clauses without prepositions	237
II.1.2.1	A note on 'dangling participles'	237
II.1.3	Nonfinite (reduced) relative clauses	238
II.1.4	Nonfinite <i>-en/-ed</i> clauses	239
II.1.5	Nonfinite <i>to-</i> clauses of purpose	239
II.1.6	Nonfinite <i>for . . . to</i> clauses	239
II.1.7	Historical and dialectal <i>for to</i>	240
II.1.8	Nonfinite NP complement clauses	241
II.1.9	Nonfinite AdjP complement clauses	241
II.1.10	Verbless clauses	242
II.1.11	Nonfinite clauses functioning like NPs	243

11.2	Subordinate finite clauses	246
11.2.1	Noun clauses as subject	246
11.2.2	Noun clauses as object	247
11.2.3	Non-restrictive relative clauses	247
11.2.4	Appositive noun clauses	250
11.2.4.1	Appositive clause or relative clause?	250
11.2.5	Finite adverbial clauses	251
12	DERIVED CLAUSES	254
12.1	Direct and indirect speech	254
12.1.1	Direct speech – quoting and quoted clauses	254
12.1.1.1	Adverbs in quoting clauses	255
12.1.2	Indirect speech – reporting and reported clauses	255
12.2	Change of order of the constituents, SPCA	260
12.2.1	Adverbials brought to the front of the clause as theme – ASPC	260
12.2.2	Other places for adverbials	261
12.2.3	Other clause constituents as theme	261
12.2.4	Existential <i>there</i>	262
12.2.5	Clauses derived by extraposition	263
12.3	Complex and derived clauses in a text	264
12.3.1	Use of the passive voice	269
12.4	Making information prominent	269
12.4.1	Cleft clauses/sentences	269
12.4.2	Pseudo-cleft clauses/sentences	271
12.5	Summary	271
12.6	Postscript – ways of diagramming a structural analysis	272
12.6.1	NP and PrepP structures	272
12.6.1.1	Labelled bracketing	272
12.6.1.2	Linear analysis	273
12.6.1.3	Tree diagrams	273
12.6.2	VP structure	274
12.6.2.1	Labelled bracketing	274
12.6.2.2	Linear analysis	275
12.6.2.3	Tree diagrams	275
12.6.3	Clause structure	276
12.6.3.1	Labelled bracketing	276
12.6.3.2	Linear analysis	276
12.6.3.3	Tree diagrams	278
13	SENTENCES	280
13.1	Sentence or complex clause?	280
13.2	Simple sentences	282
13.3	Compound sentences – coordination	282
13.3.1	Coordination with <i>and</i>	282
13.3.2	Coordination with <i>but</i>	283
13.3.3	Coordination with <i>or</i>	283
13.4	Complex and compound-complex sentences	284

13.5	Compound, complex and compound-complex sentences in texts	284
13.5.1	Bracketing and description	285
13.5.2	Linear analysis	289
14	THE GRAMMAR OF TEXTS AND SPEECH	294
14.1	The sentence in written English	294
14.2	The clause-complex in spoken English	299
14.2.1	The grammar of narrative speech	299
14.2.1.1	Television interview	299
14.2.1.2	Five-year-old's narrative	300
14.2.1.3	Adult narrative	303
14.2.2	Speech in fiction	303
14.3	Grammar and style in texts	305
14.3.1	Text analysis 1 – <i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	305
14.3.2	Text analysis 2 – news reporting	308
14.3.2.1	Choices of vocabulary (i) – classifying the actors	310
14.3.2.2	Choices of vocabulary (ii) – classifying the processes (who did what to whom?)	311
14.3.2.3	Choices in grammatical structure – theme and meaning	313
14.3.3	Text analysis 3 – Dickens's styles	315
14.3.4	Text analysis 4 – <i>Ulysses</i>	317
14.3.5	Text analysis 5 – conversation	320
14.3.6	Text analysis 6 – dialectal speech, <i>Sons and Lovers</i>	321
14.3.7	Postscript	323
	Bibliography	324
	Index of texts	326
	General index	328