

Contents

Introduction I

Chapter I	The elements of a simple sentence	9
1.1	Simple, compound, and complex sentences	9
1.2	Subject and predicate	10
1.3	Identifying the subject	11
1.4	Verb types	12
	1.4.1 Intransitive verbs	12
	1.4.2 Linking verbs	13
	1.4.3 Transitive verbs	14
1.5	Subject complement	15
1.6	Direct object	16
1.7	Indirect object	17
1.8	Object complement	18
1.9	The five sentence patterns	19
1.10	Active and passive sentences	21
1.11	Adjuncts	22
1.12	The meanings of adjuncts	23
1.13	Vocatives	24
1.14	Sentence types	25
	1.14.1 Declarative sentences	25
	1.14.2 Interrogative sentences	25
	1.14.3 Imperative sentences	26
	1.14.4 Exclamative sentences	27
1.15	Fragments and non-sentences	27

Chapter 2	Words and word classes	30
2.1	Open and closed word classes	30
2.2	Nouns	32
2.2.1	Singular and plural nouns	32
2.2.2	Common and proper nouns	34
2.2.3	Countable and uncountable nouns	35
2.2.4	Genitive nouns	36
2.2.5	Dependent and independent genitives	37
2.2.6	The gender of nouns	38
2.3	Main verbs	39
2.3.1	The five verb forms	39
2.3.2	The base form	40
2.3.3	The -s form	41
2.3.4	The past form	41
2.3.5	The -ed form	42
2.3.6	The -ing form	43
2.3.7	Irregular verbs	43
2.3.8	Regular and irregular variants	45
2.3.9	The verb <i>be</i>	46
2.3.10	Multi-word verbs	47
2.4	Adjectives	48
2.4.1	Gradable adjectives	49
2.4.2	Comparative and superlative adjectives	50
2.4.3	Participial adjectives	52
2.5	Adverbs	53
2.5.1	Gradable adverbs	54
2.5.2	Comparative and superlative adverbs	55
2.5.3	Intensifiers	55
2.5.4	The meanings of adverbs	56
2.6	Pronouns	57
2.6.1	Personal pronouns	57
2.6.2	Possessive pronouns	60
2.6.3	Reflexive pronouns	62
2.6.4	Gender-neutral pronouns	62
2.6.5	Demonstrative pronouns	63
2.6.6	Relative pronouns	64
2.6.7	Pronoun <i>it</i>	65
2.6.8	Pronoun <i>one</i>	66

2.7	Auxiliary verbs	67
2.7.1	Modal auxiliaries	68
2.7.2	The meanings of modal auxiliaries	69
2.7.3	The passive auxiliary <i>be</i>	70
2.7.4	The progressive auxiliary <i>be</i>	70
2.7.5	The perfective auxiliary <i>have</i>	70
2.7.6	Auxiliary <i>do</i>	71
2.7.7	Semi-auxiliaries	72
2.8	Prepositions	72
2.9	Conjunctions	73
2.10	Articles	75
2.11	Numerals	76
Chapter 3	Phrases	78
3.1	The five phrase types	78
3.2	Noun phrases	79
3.2.1	Determiners	80
3.2.2	Premodifiers	82
3.2.3	Postmodifiers	83
3.2.4	Restrictive and non-restrictive postmodifiers	84
3.2.5	Postmodifiers and complements	84
3.2.6	Apposition	85
3.2.7	The functions of noun phrases	86
3.3	Verb phrases	88
3.3.1	The ordering of auxiliary verbs	88
3.3.2	Tense	89
3.3.3	Expressing future time	90
3.3.4	Finite and non-finite verb phrases	91
3.3.5	Aspect	92
3.3.6	Mood	93
3.4	Adjective phrases	95
3.4.1	The functions of adjective phrases	96
3.5	Adverb phrases	97
3.5.1	The functions of adverb phrases	97
3.6	Prepositional phrases	98
3.6.1	The functions of prepositional phrases	99

Chapter 4	Sentences and clauses	101
4.1	Complex sentences	101
4.2	Markers of subordination	102
4.3	Subordinate clause types	104
4.3.1	Adjunct clauses	104
4.3.2	Relative clauses	105
4.3.3	Nominal relative clauses	105
4.3.4	<i>That</i> -clauses	106
4.3.5	Comparative clauses	107
4.4	Clauses as sentence elements	107
4.5	Clauses as phrase elements	108
4.6	The meanings of adjunct clauses	109
4.7	Peripheral clauses	110
4.7.1	Comment clauses	111
4.7.2	Reporting clauses and direct speech	111
4.7.3	Tag questions	112
4.7.4	Parentheticals	112
4.7.5	Sentential relative clauses	113
4.8	Coordination	113
4.9	Coordination types	114
4.10	Pseudo-coordination	115
4.11	Sentence connectors	116
4.11.1	Logical connectors	116
4.11.2	Structural connectors	117
4.12	Expressing point of view	119
4.13	Referring expressions	120
4.14	Antecedent agreement	121
4.15	Substitution using <i>so</i> and <i>do</i>	122
4.16	Fronting	123
4.17	Cleft sentences	124
4.18	Postponed subjects	125
4.19	<i>There</i> -sentences	126
Chapter 5	Word formation and spelling	127
5.1	The structure of words	127
5.2	Prefixes	127
5.3	Suffixes	129
5.4	Compounding and blending	130
5.5	Acronyms, abbreviations, and clipping	133

5.6	Back formations	135
5.7	Combining forms	136
5.8	Inflections	137
5.9	Adding inflections: general spelling rules	138
5.10	Adding <i>-ly</i> and <i>-ally</i>	142
5.11	Plural nouns	143
5.12	Variants with <i>s</i> or <i>z</i>	145
5.13	British and American spelling variants	146
5.14	Problem spellings	147
Appendix: English irregular verbs		150
Glossary of terms		158
Further reading		173
Index		174