

INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH



GRAMMAR

吕叔湘著

中级英语语法

北京出版社

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Lü Shuxiang

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DX41/22

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北 京 出 版 社 出 版

(北京崇文门外东兴隆街 51 号)

新华书店北京发行所发行

北京印刷三厂印刷

*

787×1092 毫米 32 开本 10.75 印张

1981 年 4 月第 1 版 1981 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

印数 1—129,000

书号: 9071·67

定价: 0.95 元

PREFACE

A word of justification is expected of a writer who has the temerity to add another to the large number of grammar-books now in print. A preface is not the place for indulging in criticisms, though one cannot help noticing that there is still wanting in this country a textbook modern and realistic in its outlook and yet conforming more or less to the traditional scheme of presentation so that the average teacher can use it with ease and profit. A book is needed which, in view of the fact that language is primarily speech, makes spoken English its chief concern, and which, taking into consideration the time at the disposal of the teacher and the student, makes no attempt at completeness but boldly discarding some of the time-honoured deadweight (e. g., the gender of nouns, the rarer irregular plurals and the non-existent distinction between the nominative and objective cases), devotes the space so saved to a fuller treatment of the essentials. And what is still more important, we need a book which chooses for its illustrative examples not lifeless museum specimens but natural everyday expressions that the student can appropriate for his own use. This book is prepared to meet the need and it will be for those who have used it in their classroom work to judge whether the performance is equal to the intention.

The book is meant to cover a year's work in grammar in the senior middle school. Should this prove inadvisable in particular cases, the study may be extended to three or four terms with more drills in addition to those provided.

The compiler of a book of this kind naturally can lay no claim to great originality. Both regarding the general plan and in the selection of examples my debt to Professor Otto Jespersen's *Essentials of English Grammar* and Mr. H. E. Palmer's *Grammar of Spoken English* is extensive and obvious. I take the present opportunity to express, however inadequately, my heartfelt gratitude. Thanks are also due to my friend Mr. Zhang Pei-lin, who read the whole manuscript before it went to the press and made many valuable suggestions.

L. S.

NANJING,
June 1947.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

This is the 1947 edition with minor corrections and amendments. Thanks are due to Professor Chen Yu-jia, who went through the whole book meticulously and suggested many improvements.

L. S.

Beijing,
January 1980.

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PART ONE

THE SENTENCE

CHAPTER I

WORDS, PHRASES, SENTENCES

Classes of Words

1 The word and the sentence are the two most important functional units of speech. We generally speak in sentences, not in single words. But as a sentence is made up of words, we may as well begin the study with words.

English words are conveniently grouped into eight classes, generally called the **Parts of Speech**.

(1) **Nouns:** man, friend; John, American; star, stone, air, water; sleep, war; year, day, mile; beauty, health; etc.

(2) **Pronouns:** I, you, he, she, it; my, your, his, her, its; this, that; who, what, which; one, a (an), some, any, all; etc.

a (an), the. (Articles)

many, much, few, little, etc. (Quantifiers)

one, two, three; first, second, third, etc. (Numerals)

Articles, quantifiers and numerals are sometimes classified as adjectives.