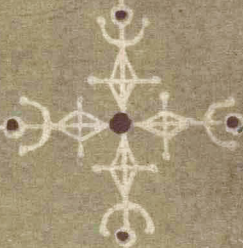


CORRECT

YOUR ENGLISH



B. MENDELSSOHN  
AND J. W. PALMER

# **Correct Your English**

**LANGUAGE DRILLS FOR STUDENTS OF ENGLISH**

**BY**

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## PREFACE

THIS is not simply another grammar book. It is, as its title implies, a collection of language drills designed to help the foreign student to correct the bad habits he may have acquired in the course of his English studies.

The principle underlying these drills is that provided a student repeats correct language forms often enough he will tend to drop his faulty linguistic habits.

In the explanatory matter introductory to the drills themselves rules have for the most part been omitted, since it is hoped that the student will find the many examples sufficient for his needs.

In the usual type of grammar book much space is devoted to the rules of grammar. Experience has shown that students have little difficulty in memorising these but fail lamentably when asked to apply them. Repetition of correct sentence forms is of greater value. As one writer with whose conclusions we agree has pointed out, "Knowledge of grammar has very little effect upon correct usage. The large increases in grammatical knowledge are accompanied by only small increases in correct usage. . . . Apparently imitation and repetition of correct expression are far more efficacious in forming correct habits than grammatical knowledge."<sup>1</sup> We are not advocating that grammar books be altogether discarded, merely that at some stage in a foreign student's studies frequent resort be made to corrective drills.

In this book all drills are so drawn up that the student must repeat sentences in their entirety. This insistence on the repetition of a sentence as a whole is designed to train the student to use correct sentence forms.

<sup>1</sup> D. Starch: "Some Experimental Data on the Value of Studying Foreign Languages," *School Review*, vol. xxiii. (1915).

It will be noticed that in many of the examples two forms of answer are given—long and short—where Englishmen would normally use only the short form. This is intentional, for a twofold purpose is thus being served. First, the student is using a complete sentence which is intended to drive home a particular point. Secondly, he is being drilled *incidentally* in the use of auxiliary verbs. One example should make this point clear :—

*Q.* If it rains, will you go out ?

*A.* If it rains, I shall go out,

*or* Yes, I shall.

If it rains, I shall not go out,

*or* No, I shall not (shan't).

Here the student is using a complete sentence containing the correct tense sequence (which it is the purpose of this particular exercise to drill), and is at the same time being trained in the correct use of the auxiliary "will" (and "won't").

We should like to emphasise two points. First, the vocabulary throughout is intentionally simple since it is essential that the point of grammar should be within the grasp of all. Secondly, all drills have been carefully graded and wherever possible have been put into the form of questions so as to provide *incidental* practice in both asking and answering questions.

Finally, it is for the teacher to decide which are the weaknesses of his class and then to ask the class to do the drill calculated to deal with those particular weaknesses.

## NOTE TO TEACHERS

WE should like to emphasise that our purpose in preparing these drills is not primarily *to teach* English to foreign students, but rather *to correct the mistakes* that are apt to be made irrespective of the particular method of teaching used.

The following method of using these drills is suggested :—

1. If the class have copies of the book, they should be asked to study the examples for as long as is deemed necessary. If only the teacher has a copy, he should read out the preliminary matter slowly or write as much of it as is possible on the blackboard. He should then read out the questions slowly and clearly, and request the pupils to repeat them correctly and then answer them. If the class have the book, the teacher should request them to read the questions silently first, and then, after all books have been turned over, ask and answer them orally, a pair of pupils at a time.

2. It is not intended that the various sections of the book be gone through consecutively from cover to cover. The teacher himself must decide wherein lie the weaknesses of his class, and then apply the drill calculated to deal with those particular weaknesses. Experience has shown that occasional explanations of difficulties or common errors are anything but efficacious. It is only by repeated drills that faults can to any appreciable extent be eliminated.

Should the drills given in the book prove insufficient through the backwardness of a class or for any other reason, teachers should have no difficulty in constructing further questions along the patterns indicated.

3. The teacher must be careful not to permit either incorrect repetition of a question or an incorrect answer.

4. It should not be necessary to devote a whole teaching period to language drills. It is much better to drill the class for about a quarter of each English lesson than to devote a whole lesson from time to time to drills.

5. Wherever it has appeared that the pupil might be held up in his answer through inability to think of a suitable content verb or other word, the necessary help has been given.

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## PART I

# VERB FORMS AND CLAUSES

### THE PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

I go  
You go  
He goes

We go  
You go  
They go

Look at the following sentences :—

1. I *go* to school every morning.  
(It is *my habit* to go to school every morning.)
2. I *eat* my dinner every night at eight o'clock.  
(It is *my habit* to eat my dinner at eight o'clock every night.)
3. Men *wear* light suits in summer.
4. My father *works* in an office.
5. I always *wake up* early in the morning.
6. Lazy boys usually *fail* in their examinations.

NOTE.—When you wish to say that a person does a thing **always, sometimes, often, every day, every week, usually** etc., you should use the **Present Simple Tense**.

### Drills

A. Complete each of the following sentences and then repeat each sentence as a whole. —

*Example:*

Every Friday afternoon I go . . .

A. Every Friday afternoon I go for a walk.

1. Every morning I get up to go to . . .
2. Every evening I eat my dinner together with my . . .
3. I always work hard to please my . . .
4. We are always happy when we . . .
5. The sun always sets in the . . .
6. The sun always rises in the . . .

7. Our family often spends the summer at . . .
8. I often swim in the . . .
9. We usually send for a doctor when we are . . .
10. I sometimes play games with . . .

**B. Ask and answer the following questions :—**

*Example:*

*Q.* Who looks after you ?

*A.* My father looks after me,  
or My father does.

1. Who gives you food and clothes ?
2. Who teaches you English at school ?
3. Who makes your clothes ?
4. Who mends your shoes ?
5. Who rules your country ?
6. Who looks after you when you are ill ?
7. Who bakes bread ?
8. Who works in the fields ?
9. Who cleans your house ?
10. Who cooks your food ?

**C. Ask and answer the following questions :—**

*Example:*

*Q.* When does your father return from work ?

*A.* My father returns from work in the evening,  
or In the evening.

1. When do you eat your dinner ?
2. When do you go to bed ?
3. When do you wear thick clothes ?
4. When do you wear thin clothes ?
5. When do you play ?
6. When do you return from school ?
7. When do you wash yourself ?
8. When does your school begin ?
9. When does your teacher punish you ?
10. When does the sun rise ?

### **THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE**

I am writing  
You are writing  
He is writing

We are writing  
You are writing  
They are writing

Look at the following sentences :—

1. It *is raining* (now).  
(It is raining at this moment.)
2. The sun *is shining* (now).
3. The sun *is setting* (now).
4. My father *is writing* a letter (now).

NOTE.—When you wish to say that something is happening **now** or **at this moment**, you should use the **Present Continuous Tense**.

### Drills

A. Ask and answer the following questions :—

*Example:*

*Q.* Is the bell ringing (now) ?

*A.* Yes, the bell is ringing,

*or.* Yes, it is.

No, the bell is not ringing,

*or* No, it is not (it isn't).

1. Is the moon shining ?
2. Is someone knocking at the door ?
3. Is the wind blowing ?
4. Is the servant cleaning the room ?
5. Is anyone talking ?
6. Are the boys playing football ?
7. Are the children sleeping ?
8. Are you listening to me ?
9. Are you working hard ?
10. Are your friends enjoying themselves ?

B. Ask and answer the following questions :—

*Example:*

*Q.* What is the sun doing ?

*A.* The sun is shining.

1. What are you doing ?
2. What is your neighbour doing ?
3. What game are the boys playing ?
4. What are you writing ?
5. What is the wind doing ?
6. What is the name of the book you are reading ?
7. What language are you speaking ?
8. What is the bell doing ?
9. What are you wearing ?
10. What is your teacher doing ?

**C. Form questions to which the following may be the answers. Repeat the answer after forming your question :—**

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. He is writing a letter to his brother. | (What is he . . . ?)    |
| 2. I am making a wooden box.              | (What are you . . . ?)  |
| 3. They are playing tennis                | (What are they . . . ?) |
| 4. He is talking to the next boy.         | (What is he . . . ?)    |
| 5. I am eating an apple.                  | (What are you . . . ?)  |
| 5. He is singing.                         | (What is he . . . ?)    |
| 7. They are working.                      | (What are they . . . ?) |
| 8. We are studying hard.                  | (What are you . . . ?)  |
| 9. They are sleeping.                     | (What are they . . . ?) |
| 10. I am reading.                         | (What are you . . . ?)  |

**D. Put the verbs in brackets into either the Present Simple or the Present Continuous Tense. Repeat each sentence as a whole. The verb in brackets is the Infinitive.**

- The sun always (rise) in the east, but it not (rise) now.
- Every morning I (get up) early. On Friday mornings I (sleep) late.
- In summer it (be) hot, but in winter it (be) cold.
- I often (spend) my summer holidays at the seaside.
- I cannot go out because it (rain) very much now.
- Rivers (be) useful.
- He (run) to catch the train, because it (move) now.
- Can you hear what I (say) ?
- My father (be) kind to me always.
- I not (read) the newspaper now that I usually (read).
- Who (talk) at the back of the room now ?
- Look ! Smoke (come) out of that window.
- On my way to school I usually (meet) many people who (go) to their work.
- When it (rain) people usually (stay) indoors.
- Do you know that man who (walk) on the other side of the street ?
- He not (listen) now ; he (look) out of the window.
- Every year he (visit) England.
- Look ! The sun (set).
- Listen ! I (talk) to you.
- The train (come) now.

## THE PAST SIMPLE TENSE

I spoke  
You spoke  
He spoke

We spoke  
You spoke  
They spoke

Look at the following sentences :—

1. I *travelled* to Europe last year.
2. I *read* an interesting book yesterday.
3. We *spent* last summer at the seaside.
4. We *met* at the cinema two days ago.
5. He *fell off* his horse last Monday.

NOTE.—When you wish to say that something happened, took place, or was finished at some time in the past, you should use the **Past Simple Tense**.

Now look at the following sentences :—

1. When I was a boy I *studied* hard,  
or When I was a boy I *used to study* hard,  
or When I was a boy *it was my habit to study* hard.
2. Years ago men *believed* that the earth was flat,  
or Years ago men *used to believe* that the earth was flat,  
or Years ago *it was the habit of men to believe* that the earth was flat.

NOTE.—When you wish to say that something happened **again and again** at a certain time in the past, or that it was a person's **habit** to do something again and again in the past, you should use either the **Past Simple Tense** or the words **used to** (do something).

### Drills

A. Complete each of the following sentences and then repeat each as a whole :—

Example:

Two days ago I went to see a . . .

A. Two days ago I went to see a football match.

1. Yesterday I got up early to go . . .
2. Last night I ate my dinner at . . .
3. Three days ago I met a friend coming out of . . .
4. Last summer we went . . .

5. A week ago I watched a tennis match between ...
6. Last Tuesday I read ...
7. I went to the cinema only once last ...
8. Yesterday morning the sun shone brightly over ...
9. A few days ago I broke a window with ...
10. I received a good mark for my work yesterday from my ...

**B. Ask and answer the following questions :—**

*Example:*

**Q.** To which cinema did you go yesterday ?

**A.** I went to the Royal Cinema yesterday.

1. What did you do yesterday ? (...I swam...)
2. What did you read last night ? (...I read...)
3. What time did you get up yesterday morning ? (...I got up...)
4. Where did you sleep last night ? (...I slept...)
5. Where did you spend your last holiday ? (...I spent...)
6. Where did you see your friend last week ? (...I saw...)
7. What did you receive from your father last week ? (...I received...)
8. Who cooked your dinner last night ? (...cooked...)
9. Who cleaned your house yesterday morning ? (...cleaned...)
10. Who broke the glass yesterday ? (...broke...)

**C. Ask and answer the following questions :—**

*Example:*

**Q.** Where did you spend your holiday three years ago ?

**A.** Three years ago I spent my holiday in the country.

1. Where did you go two days ago ? (went)
2. Where did you play football a week ago ? (played)
3. Where did you eat your dinner four days ago ? (ate)
4. Whom did you meet an hour ago ? (met)
5. Whom did you talk to a few minutes ago ? (talked)
6. Who called at your house half an hour ago ? (called)
7. Who left the room five minutes ago ? (left)
8. What did you see at the cinema a few days ago ? (saw)
9. Where did you spend your holiday a year ago ? (spent)
10. Where did you sleep five years ago ? (slept)

D. Ask and answer the following questions.  
Use *used to* in your answers.

*Example:*

Q. Where did you play as a child ?

A. As a child I *used to play* in the fields.

1. What did you do when you were young ?
2. What did you do at the seaside last summer ?
3. What did men believe about the sun years ago ?
4. In what way did men travel in the past ?
5. Where did men live thousands of years ago ?
6. What weapons did men fight with in the past ?
7. What games did you play as a boy ?
8. What books did you read as a boy ?
9. What town did you live in as a boy ?
10. What school did you go to as a boy ?

### THE PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

I was speaking

We were speaking

You were speaking

You were speaking

He was speaking

They were speaking

Look at the following sentences :—

1. I *was writing* a letter when he entered the room.
2. The boys *were making* a noise as I was coming up the steps.
3. I *was reading* a book when the boy behind me kicked me.
4. While I *was riding* to school yesterday, I saw an accident.
5. He jumped off the train while it *was moving*.

NOTE.—From the above sentences you will see that the **Past Continuous Tense** is used when we wish to speak of an action which is **unfinished** at some time **in the past**.

### Drills

A. Complete each of the following sentences and then repeat each sentence as a whole :—

*Example:*

While I was talking to him, I heard . . .

A. While I was talking to him, I heard a shout.

1. While I was walking along the street, I saw . . .
2. While we were playing, we heard . . .



3. While he was walking up the stairs, he hurt his . . .
4. While we were writing, the headmaster entered the . . .
5. While I was having a bath, I heard . . .
6. While they were walking along the road, it began to . . .
7. While I was talking to my friend, someone struck . . .
8. While the teacher was talking, a servant came into . . .
9. While my father was reading his newspaper, the light . . .
10. While I was writing, a boy behind me pushed . . .

**B. Ask and answer the following questions :—**

*Example:*

*Q.* Was it raining when you went out ?

*A.* Yes, it was raining when I went out,

*or* Yes, it was.

No, it was not raining when I went out,

*or* No, it was not (wasn't).

1. Was the moon shining when you went out ?
2. Was someone knocking at your door when you were in your bath ?
3. Was the wind blowing when you awoke ?
4. Was the servant cleaning the room when you were busy ?
5. Was anyone talking when the light went out ?
6. Were the boys playing football when it began to rain ?
7. Were the children sleeping when you returned ?
8. Were you working hard when the teacher entered the room ?
9. Were they enjoying themselves when the fire broke out ?
10. Were you crossing the street when the accident took place ?

**C. Ask and answer the following questions :—**

*Example:*

*Q.* What was the driver doing when the accident

*A.* He was looking at his watch. [happened ?

1. What were you doing at six o'clock last night ?
2. What were you writing at four o'clock yesterday afternoon ?
3. What was your neighbour doing when you knocked at his door ?
4. What game were the boys playing when it began to rain ?
5. What was the wind doing when you went out ?
6. What was the sun doing at five o'clock yesterday afternoon ?