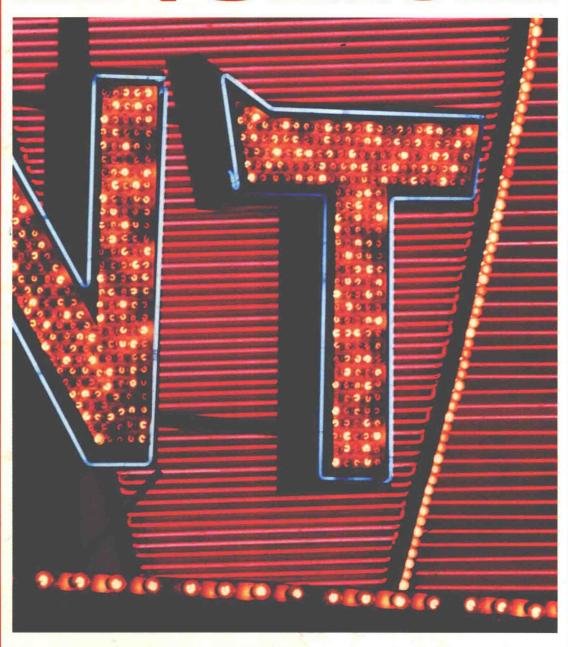
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ENGLISH



ENGLISH

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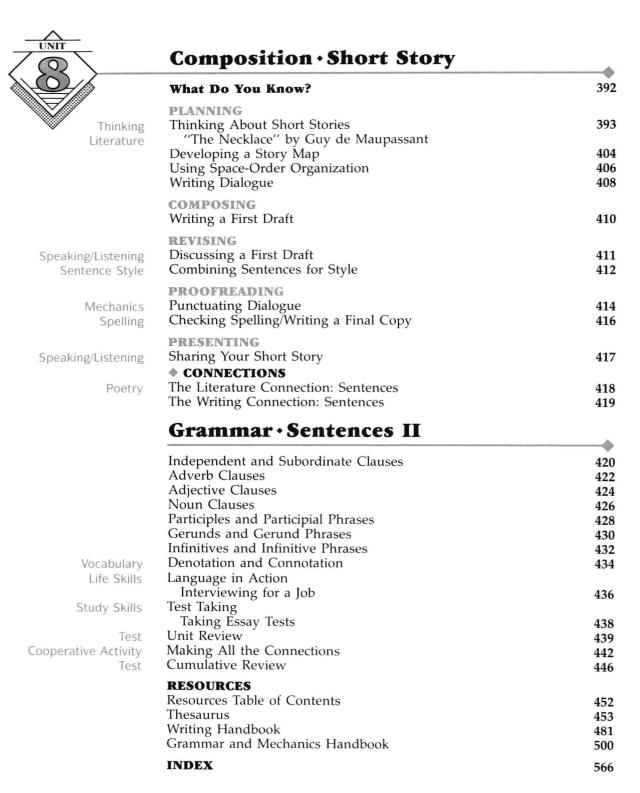
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A Letter to the Student

You are at the beginning of a new school year. You are meeting new people, including your teacher and probably some new classmates. This book is also new—at least to you.

As the authors of *McGraw-Hill English*, we want you to know why we wrote the book as we did. We planned this book so that you will make the best possible use of your time.

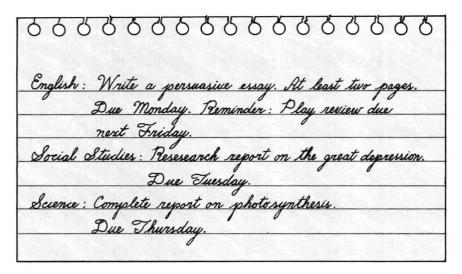
In the book, you will follow a clear, step-by-step plan to complete each writing assignment. You will also learn how an understanding of grammar helps to improve your writing. Each unit includes strategies for understanding new grammar skills. We feel confident that these features will help you to write better this year.

To help you benefit the most from this book, you will need to keep three kinds of journals or logs:

- a personal journal—in which you will record your thoughts and feelings about any topic you choose. You can use these notes later to give you ideas for writing assignments. This journal is for your eyes only.
- a spelling log—in which you will record the correct spellings of words that you misspelled in your compositions. Keep this log handy in order to review the words before each new writing assignment.
- a learning log—in which you will write about the lessons you found most challenging, how you finally mastered them, and the skills you grasped most easily. By reviewing your learning log regularly, your work will improve steadily.

Our goal in this book has been to meet your personal needs in composition and grammar so that you may communicate more effectively. Please let us know whether we have succeeded in helping you to improve your writing and language skills.

The Writing Process



Do these homework assignments sound familiar to you? This book will help you to write reports, stories, letters, and other assignments for all of your subjects. However, your writing does not begin when you put the pencil to paper. Good writing begins long before that.

In each unit, you will complete your own work by following a step-by-step plan called the *writing process*. Here, in brief, are the steps and what each involves.

Planning

- First, you must know the characteristics of the kind of writing you will do. You will study a literature model of that kind.
- ◆ Next, you must know your audience and your purpose for writing.
- Then, choose a topic that interests you and that you know about.
- Then, take notes, make lists, draw a chart, or plan an outline to help you organize your ideas.

Choose a topic you *care* about. Writing is difficult if you are bored with your subject.

Composing

◆ Use your plan to write a first draft. Include any new ideas you may have while writing, even though they are not in your original notes.

Do not worry about making mistakes at this point. Later, you will have the chance to go back and correct them.

Revising

- ◆ Have a classmate read your draft. Discuss how you may make your ideas clearer or more interesting. Revise your work for content.
- Revise for style or for organization. Decide where to combine sentences or when to rearrange them to make your writing clearer.
 Add details, or remove unnecessary words.

A bit of work can help your draft say *exactly* what you want it to say. Focus on your message.

Proofreading/Writing a Final Copy

- Read over your draft for errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
- Write a final copy, making all your changes in content, style, and proofreading.

Checking for mistakes takes a little time, but it's *important*. Those tiny errors can really get in the reader's way.

Presenting

• Discover interesting ways to share your work with other people.

People write to communicate. Here's your chance!

The more you practice the writing process in this book, the easier it will be to do each new assignment. Your writing will improve steadily throughout the year.

Our Approach to Grammar

Some students like to study grammar; others do not. We have organized the grammar lessons in this book for both kinds of students.

We asked ourselves these questions: What is easy about grammar for students your age, and what is not? Then, we wrote special tests to help us find out. We tested students across the country. The results provided us with valuable information that helped us to determine which aspects of grammar to teach and how to teach them.

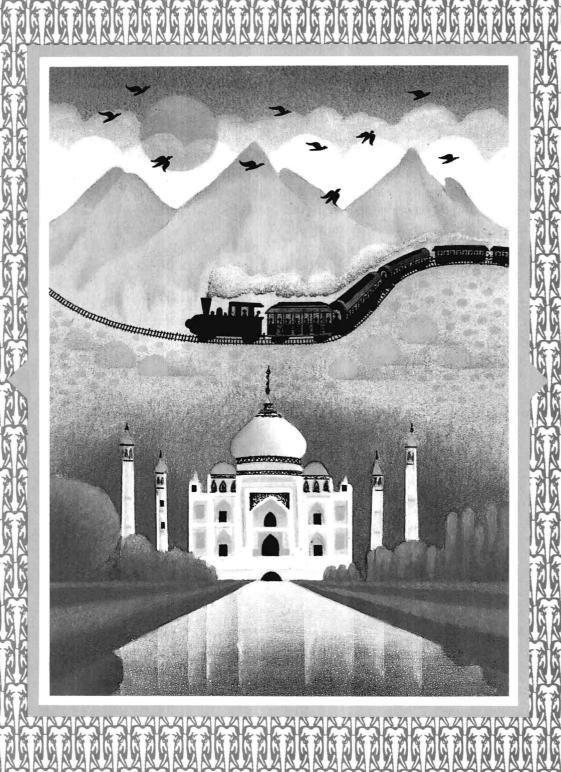
Each grammar lesson has a section called **Strategy**. This section gives you a hint to help you understand a part of the grammar skill that is being taught. Using our test results, we wrote strategies that focus on areas students find most difficult in grammar.

The instruction and exercises are divided into A and B sections. Use the A part of the instruction to help you with the A part of the exercises; do the same with the B parts.

We are aware that sometimes you may wonder why students study grammar. In this book, we show you how knowing grammar can help to improve your writing.

Whether you are someone who enjoys grammar or someone who doesn't, we hope you will find this book the most interesting and helpful English book you have ever used.

We wrote it with you in mind.



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