

THE LOGIC

BEHIND ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Xiaoming Han (韩笑明) Brinna Li (潇涵)



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编 著: 韩笑明 潇 涵

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This set of books is dedicated to my great mother—YingWang who set me on my path.

Xiaoming Han

Preface

Grammar is the key to mastering ESL because all the words have to be put together through the appropriate manipulation of grammar. However, a multitude of rules leaves students at a loss as to which course to take other than to resort to mechanical memorization, which undoubtedly greatly hinders the process of their acquisition of ESL. To help remove this obstacle, *The Logic behind English Grammar* provides students with a highly effective shortcut—directly mastering the logic which dominates the grammatical rules.

The Logical Deduction Method introduced in this book has simplified the rules into a few easily understood steps which directly lays bare the hidden logic. To grasp the logic means to grasp the essence of grammar, which can turn passive learning into active learning immediately. Thus, students themselves can create perfect sentences without the necessity of knowing the rules. This method can quickly and effectively guide students in conquering grammar. Therefore, through conscientiously and coherently going over these three books from the beginning to the end (the three reference chapters can be excluded), students will know how to speak and write appropriately and accordingly, all of which will lead to twice the results with half the effort.

There are eight essential differences between this book and other grammar books:

1. Starting with the Introduction of the Parts of Speech

As preparation, this book begins with the 26 letters of the alphabet, the use of the dictionary and the International Phonetic Alphabet in American English. The formal instruction starts with a general introduction of the ten parts of speech. Because all grammatical concepts are rooted in the parts of speech and dominated by logic, only by first knowing the parts of speech can students have a profound understanding of the significance of logic.

2. Items Divided by Categories and Closely Linked

All grammatical phenomena are divided according to their categories, with all items of the same category introduced together. What has been discussed in the previous chapters is needed not only for understanding but also for further deduction and comparison with the following chapters. Each item is built upon and compared with the previous items, and each step is closely linked to the next and introduced one by one according to its complexity. By the end of the book, all items are covered as a unified whole which is systematic, coherent, and clear.

3. No Irrelevant Grammatical Phenomena Involved in Each Section

Except for the points discussed in a given chapter or previous chapters, no irrelevant grammatical phenomena which have not yet been discussed appear

in the explanations and exercises of the given chapter. Thus, students can thoroughly grasp what they have learned without being confused.

4. Rules Deduced by Revealing the Logic behind Them

Because the syntactical structures of most clauses lie in the logic behind the rules, the instruction of the clauses is mainly presented by using the Logical Deduction Method. A few steps of logical deduction can automatically generate a sentence with accurate grammar and a condensed structure, while the origin and development of the sentence remain thoroughly clear. These logical deduction steps are both easy and interesting, which can be understood by native speakers of all languages. Also, there are specific deduction illustrations for the complicated structures which need more than two steps (see sections 21, 26, 44, 45, 48, 51-1, 53, 55-5, 55-6, 57-3, 58, 61-3 to 61-5, 72, 74, etc.). Besides, the semantic logic also dominates grammar, but it has not been revealed yet. This book first makes this logic clear (see sections 49-11, 53-6, 53-10, 53-11, 54-8, 65, 66-10, 69-2, 73-2, 73-3, etc.). (The abbreviations to the left of the examples sentences in the book are for the sole purpose of explaining the sentence structures; therefore, students can choose to ignore these abbreviations.)

5. Free of Grammatical Errors

Following the grammatical rules is passive and rigid learning, and what is learned is only on the surface, which can lead to all kinds of errors in comprehensive practice. Grasping the logic behind the rules is active and creative learning, and what is learned is the essence. By strictly following the steps of logical deduction, all kinds of grammatical errors can be avoided.

6. Learning Process Dramatically Reduced

Because the Logical Deduction Method has taken students away from the misguided task of rule memorization, a student's learning efficiency can be raised dramatically. Some complicated grammatical points (the passive voice of the sixteen tenses, the basic principles of the formation of compound sentences, etc.) which usually take months to learn only take a few minutes to understand using this method, and all that is left is how to speed up the rate of deduction. Specifically, the high efficiency and acceleration of the Logical Deduction Method can save students two thirds of the time and mental energy compared with other learning methods.

7. Appropriate Especially for Chinese Students at All Levels

This book is divided into three parts. Book One, for the beginning level, introduces the basic concepts of English (basic vocabulary, the basic structures of simple sentences, the basic grammatical elements, tenses, the passive voice, etc.). Book Two, for the intermediate level, introduces different formations of simple sentences (the grammatical points for all parts of speech, the switch among parts of speech, the parallelism of same categories, the non-predicate forms, etc.). Book Three, for the advanced level, introduces the basic manipulating logic for combining simple sentences into compound sentences (the formation of clauses and their simplified forms, the switch among clauses, etc.). The method introduced in this book is fresh and unique, so after reading it, even native speakers can deepen their understanding of the logic behind English grammar.

8. Appropriate for the Native Speakers of All Languages

The English version of this book has been tested in the ESL classrooms of West Los Angeles College and Los Angeles City College in the United States. The results indicate that this Logical Deduction Method is appropriate for the native speakers of all languages, such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Burmese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Malaysian, Indonesian, Indian, Persian, Arabic, Turkish, German, French, Italian, Hungarian, Swiss, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, etc.

Books One through Three are designed as one unit in a system, with all grammatical categories being completely covered. Because what is explained in a previous chapter is not explained again in the following chapters, it is highly recommended to use these books from the beginning so that the learning process can advance gradually and be deeply entrenched at each step. What it brings to the teachers and the students who are struggling with English grammar is the endless subtleties and joys of quick mastery with high efficiency.

Special Thanks to Steve J. Leetch and Michael. A. Agrusso for their generous assistance in the editing of this book.

Xiaoming Han (韩笑明)
Brinna Li (潇涵)

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PREPARATION FOR LEARNING

The 26 Letters

Higher Case:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
	W	X	Y	Z							
Lower Case:	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k
	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v
	w	x	y	z							
Higher and Lower:	Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj	
	Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt	
	Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz					
Vowels:	a	e	i	o	u						

* Other letters are all consonants.

Exercise A: The teacher verbally spells the following words to the students. The students write down the letters and verbally spell the words back to the teacher.

it	is	sunny	cloudy	cold	warm
old	sweet	important	senior	American	good
new	bright	beautiful	wonderful	fabulous	magnificent

The Use of the Dictionary

The words in the dictionary are listed alphabetically (according to the order of the 26 letters). To find *mother*, for example, skip all of the letters from *a* to *l* at the first half of the dictionary, and then look for the beginning of the *m* section from the second half of the dictionary. Then, to look for the second letter, *o*, skip all of the *m*- words whose second letter is any letter from *a* to *n* until you find *mo*. Likewise, to look for the third letter, *t*, skip all of the *mo*- words whose third letter is any letter from *a* to *s* until you find *mot*. Furthermore, to look for the fourth letter, *h*, skip all of the *mot*- words whose fourth letter is any letter from *a* to *g* until you find *moth*-. Following this process, you can find the word letter by letter.

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) Used in American English

Phonetically, a phoneme is the smallest unit of sound which may not be further divided. In the IPA, a vowel phoneme can build a syllable. An ending consonant phoneme belongs to its preceding syllable unless this consonant phoneme is followed by another vowel phoneme. When a word has two or more syllables, one of them must be a stressed syllable with the symbol ' on the top left. Furthermore, when two consonant phonemes go one after another, they belong to the preceding and following syllables respectively.

Vowel Phonemes:	/a/	/ʌ/	/ə/	/ɛ/	/æ/	/ɔ/	/i/	/ʊ/	/ai/
	/ei/	/aʊ/	/oʊ/	/ɔi/	/ar/	/ər/	/ɔr/	/ɛr/	/ir/

Consonant Phonemes:	/p/	/b/	/t/	/d/	/k/	/g/	/f/	/v/	/m/
	/n/	/ŋ/	/h/	/l/	/s/	/z/	/ts/	/dz/	/ʃ/
	/tʃ/	/ʒ/	/dʒ/	/r/	/tr/	/dr/	/θ/	/ð/	

Vowel	Consonant	IPA
/ɛ/	/b/ /d/ /t/ /g/ /p/ /l/	/bɛd/ /dɛt/ /gɛt/ /pɛt/ /lɛt/
/æ/	/f/ /m/	/æd/ /bæd/ /fæt/ /mæd/ /mæp/
/ʌ/	/s/ /n/	/bʌs/ /sʌn/ /gʌn/ /mʌst/ /dʌst/
/ɑ/	/k/ /h/	/kɑm/ /pɑm/ /nɑd/ /nɑt/ /hɑt/
/ʊ/		/bʊk/ /fʊd/ /gʊd/ /lʊk/ /nʊn/
/ɔ/		/kɔst/ /bɔs/ /dɔg/ /lɔs/ /tɔk/
/i/	/z/	/iz/ /hiz/ /ki/ /si/ /ti/
/ə/ /aʊ/		/ə'baʊt/ /ə'laʊ/ /kaʊ/ /haʊ/ /naʊ/
/ou/		/ə'gou/ /gou/ /lou/ /nouz/ /houz/
/ɔi/	/v/	/ə'void/ /ə'nɔi/ /bɔi/ /tɔi/ /vɔis/
/ai/	/r/	/ai/ /faiv/ /raid/ /ə'raiv/ /raiz/
/ei/	/ʃ/	/dei/ /jeid/ /jeim/ /jeik/ /jeip/
	/tʃ/	/tʃætʃ/ /'kʌltʃər/ /'lektʃər/
		/itʃ/ /kætʃ/
/ɛr/		/ɛr/ /bɛr/ /dɛr/ /fɛr/ /hɛr/
/ir/		/klir/ /dir/ /ir/ /tʃir/ /hir/
/ər/		/bɜrd/ /kɜrv/ /'dɜrti/ /fɜrst/ /sɜrv/
/ar/		/ə'larm/ /kar/ /far/ /hard/ /'parti/
/ɔr/		/dɔr/ /fɔr/ /flɔr/ /mɔr/ /nɔr/
	/ŋ/	/'ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ /lɔŋ/ /lʌŋ/ /rɪŋ/ /sɪŋ/
	/ʒ/	/'ɛspɪənəʒ/ /rei'ʒim/ /'plɛʒər/ /'mɛʒə/
		/'lɛʒə/
	/dʒ/	/dʒʌdʒ/ /dʒʌst/ /dʒɔi/ /dʒab/ /dʒərm/
	/θ/	/θri/ /θɪŋ/ /θænk/ /bæθ/ /maʊθ/
	/ð/	/ðə/ /ðis/ /ðæt/ /wið/ /'faðər/

When directly following the phoneme /s/, the voiceless consonant phonemes /k/, /p/, /t/, and /tr/ are always pronounced as their corresponding voiced phonemes /g/, /b/, /d/, and /dr/ respectively.

Voiceless	Voiced	IPA
/k/	/g/	/skarʃ/ /'skalər/ /skil/ /skin/ /skai/
/p/	/b/	/speɪs/ /spark/ /spik/ /spid/ /ri'spans/
/t/	/d/	/stænd/ /stap/ /stɔr/ /stouv/ /'stadi/
/tr/	/dr/	/strændʒ/ /strim/ /strit/ /strict/ /strɔŋ/

As an ending syllable, the vowel phoneme /ə/ between a consonant phoneme and the ending consonant phoneme /l/ or /n/ is always removed from the IPA. In this case, /l/ or /n/ still builds a syllable with its preceding consonant phoneme, so the stressed symbol ' must be kept.

/lɪtəl/ /'strʌgl/ /ə'reɪvəl/ /'bʌtən/ /'viʒn/ /'leɪdn/
/lætn/

If the vowel phoneme /i/ is initial or precedes another single vowel phoneme, this /i/ is written as the semi-vowel /y/. Likewise, if the vowel phoneme /u/ is initial or precedes another single or diphthong vowel phoneme, this /u/ is rewritten as /w/.

Vowel Phoneme	IPA					
/i/	/yɑrd/	/yɑrn/	/yɪld/	/yɛs/	/yɛt/	/yɛl/
/i/	/yuz/	/yʊ'nait/	/yʊnyən/	/yʊnə'vɜ:sl/	/'fyʊtʃər/ /'yʊnɪt/	
/u/	/weɪk/	/wɒk/	/wɛn/	/wɛr/	/wɪtʃ/	/wɜ:k/

Exercise B. Pronounce the IPA.

/'pipl/	/pɛn/	/pæst/	/'beɪbɪ/	/bɪ'gɪn/	/'tɒpɪk/
/tekst/	/'dɒlər/	/'dɒktər/	/ɛɡ/	/'græmə/	/greɪt/
/farm/	/'vɛrɪ/	/'nɛvər/	/haus/	/wɜ:ld/	/'bɪzɪ/
/'sɪtɪ/	/'ɪzɪ/	/'reɪdɪʊ/	/'trævl/	/draɪʊ/	/brɛd/
/ə'wei/	/'tʃaɪnə/	/θɪŋk/	/ðɛn/	/tʃɛr/	/ɪn'dʒɔɪ/
/yʊ/	/'sɛkrəteri/	/sə'kyʊrəti/	/ʌn'hɛlpfl/	/ðəm'sɛlvz/	

Exercise C Find the following words in a dictionary, pronounce them according to the IPA, and memorize the meaning and spelling.

it	is	sunny	cloudy	cold	warm
old	sweet	important	senior	American	good
new	bright	beautiful	wonderful	fabulous	magnificent
must	should	can	may	will	
bus	friend	dog	man	person	child
student	teacher	counselor	people	nurse	apple
	meeting	travel	agency	citizen	opportunity
baby					
infant	person	nurse	dog	house	doctor
taxi	universe	sun	moon	earth	sky
world	Atlantic	Pacific	Nile	tourists	

go	stop	stay	run	smoke	eat
play	study	teach	talk with	listen to	come over
cry	walk	have	jump	love	know
help	call	like			

one two three four five six seven eight nine ten

Exercise D. Tell how many syllables there are in each IPA and pronounce them.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1) /'kwɛstʃən/ | 2) /'gʌvəmənt/ | 3) /ədminə'streɪʃən/ |
| 4) /kənʃi'ɛnʃəsli/ | 5) /'hæspɪtl/ | 6) /'kʌmpəni/ |
| 7) /ɪm'bærəsmənt/ | 8) /mɛdətə'reɪniən/ | 9) /fæn'tæstɪk/ |
| 10) /'glɒrɪəs/ | 11) /ə'præksəmətli/ | 12) /ʌn'fɔrtʃənətli/ |