

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
GRAMMAR BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO ASK!

WHOM

基础英语语法

— 语法圣经

(英语版)

THE GRAMMAR BIBLE

BY MICHAEL STRUMPF

CREATOR OF THE NATIONAL GRAMMAR HOT LINE

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出版说明

本书由两位作者合作而成。第一位作者迈克尔·施特伦普夫是美国加州莫帕克学院的英语教授。30年前，他创立了“全国语法热线”，利用电话免费解答学生在学习英语语法时遇到的种种难题。热线电话大受欢迎，成千上万来自各行各业和社会各界的人士从中受益非浅。他们之中有：国会议员、政府工作人员、大使、编辑、作家、教师、律师、学生、广告撰稿人、记者、家庭妇女、秘书（据说某副总统也从白宫打来过电话），他们根据自己遇到的语法问题打来电话求助，所提的问题五花八门，带有浓厚的生活气息。

此书就是根据多年来这类电话往来的内容编著的。它采用新颖的编排方式，借回答读者的来电提问为引子，用深入浅出的方法有针对性地讲解语法，这种生动活泼的方式巧妙地使读者加深了对语法的了解。

全书分为三大部分，第一部分主要讲说英语时应该注意的语法现象；第二部分则是剖析句子的语法；第三部分的重点是拼写、词汇和标点符号的语法规范。由于书中出现的大量例句都来源于现实生活，针对其中提出的问题所作的语法解释是读者从一般的辞书中难以找到的，因而实用性很强。值得一提的是，作者的文笔轻松、幽默，写作通俗易懂，深受英语爱好者的欢迎。本书因发行量大和广受欢迎而荣获美国出版市场协会颁发的“本杰明·富兰克林奖”。

作者迈克尔·施特伦普夫教授除常在NBC的《今日》等电视栏目露面以外，还时有文章刊登在《洛杉矶时报》、《芝加哥论坛报》、《读者文摘》和《家庭圈》等报刊上。他还是许多大公司和

政府机构的语法顾问，并入选《美国教育家名人录》和“教育家名人纪念堂”。

本书的另一位作者奥里埃尔·道格拉斯是西海岸著名的编辑兼作家。她的文章曾发表在像《花花公子》和《洛杉矶时报》这样迥然相异的出版物上。她的著作包括《奥斯卡奖获奖者史话》和《同义词词典》。

本公司获得授权，在中国大陆地区出版本书的英文版和中文版（即出）。希望这两本语法书能够成为我国的教师、学生和广大的英语爱好者得以正确地说英语、写英语的良师益友。

For Carol Strumpf
—Michael Strumpf

For Heather and Russell Douglas, and Dariel Walsh
—Auriel Douglas

Acknowledgments

The writing of this book has truly been a team effort. The publisher wishes to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Eric Ericson, editor-in-chief, whose sharp eye and insightful commentary have helped to make this book the thorough and accessible volume that it is; Ke Zou, Ph. D. , whose scholarly consultation has held this tome to the highest standards of accuracy and clarity; and Carson Elder, whose graphic design and organizational talents are impeccable. Additional thanks also go to Gretchen Ericson for her invaluable Latin consultation and to Candice Chen for her editorial contributions.

Finally, we must thank the many callers to The National Grammar Hotline. Inasmuch as their questions and comments appear in this volume, we not only give them due credit, but, additionally, thank them for providing such thoughtful queries and scholarly observations.

Preface

Communication is the essence of the human experience. Despite the ease with which the average person thinks, speaks, and writes complicated ideas on a daily basis, the process of communication is extraordinarily complex, and the distinctly human ability to weave sounds, gestures, and expressions into meaningful units that communicate our thoughts and feelings to our fellow humans is at least worthy of note, if not awe and admiration.

Why then, if the process is so complex, are humans able to communicate so easily and effortlessly? The complete answer to that question is quite beyond the scope of this book and even beyond the limits of modern science. A topic that is within our grasp and the one that this book will tackle is the regular system of rules that we use to weave sounds into the meaningful units with which we express our thoughts and ideas, creating language. We call this system **grammar**.

In a simple sense, grammar is the study of words and the ways words work together. It is a sort of invisible hand that guides us as we put words together into sentences. Any person who is able to communicate using a particular language has knowledge of the grammar of that language, even if his or her knowledge is unconscious. Grammar is pervasive.

We study grammar so that we may speak and write in a clearer and more effective manner. The unconscious knowledge of grammar that every communicator possesses may be sufficient for simple language use, but those who wish to communicate artfully and well will seek the greater depth of understanding and proficiency that the study of grammar provides.

For the past twenty five years, Moorpark College in Moorpark, California, has sponsored The National Grammar Hot Line to aid students of English grammar in their quest for knowledge. The service is free. During the Hot Line's existence, thousands of callers have telephoned with questions about the English language and its use. For a quarter of a century, I, Michael Strumpf, an English teacher at Moorpark College, have fielded questions from congressmen, governors, ambassadors, editors, writers, teach-

ers, attorneys, students, copywriters, journalists, housewives, secretaries, and vice presidents (even calls from the White House are not unheard of). People from just about any occupation and walk of life have called to ask a question that has puzzled or stumped them:

“Where do I put this comma?”

“What case should this pronoun be in?”

“How do I form the possessive of ‘Dickens’?”

This book combines the most insightful and revealing of the calls to The National Grammar Hot Line with a scholarly discussion of grammar. We begin with the parts of speech in the first third of the book, move on to the creation of sentences in the second third, and end with a discussion of spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation in the final third. In each chapter, you will find a discussion of a particular topic in grammar, interspersed with Hot Line questions and answers that I feel will strengthen your understanding of the topic. Though the book is a reference book, it has, I hope, been written with a sense of style and a sense of humor. Grammar should be a topic that you enjoy as well as one that you understand.

As I mentioned before, communication (and, by extension, grammar) is an exceedingly complex process. The authors and editors of this book have done their best to explain each grammatical issue in a clear and concise manner, but even the most careful writers cannot answer every question or clear up every troublesome matter. If the text doesn't answer your question or, after careful reading, a topic is still perplexing, please contact The National Grammar Hot Line:

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Happy Learning

If I had my choice of weapons with you, sir, I'd choose *grammar*!
—Lady For A Day(1993)

I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am
not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.
—Anonymous

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Part I

The Parts of Speech

1.

Nouns

Nouns are naming words. They give titles to people, places, things, and ideas.

Imagine a world without names. Imagine, for a moment, the horror and absurdity of ordering a simple meal without naming words. “I’ll take one of those things with the two soft, round things on the outside and one of those brown mushy things on the inside, and it’s got some red stuff and some yellow stuff and some round, green things on it.” Oh, you must mean a hamburger! You see, I couldn’t even get through this ridiculous scenario without using a couple of generic naming words, such as **stuff** or **things**. What’s in a name? Sometimes, a name is everything.

The word **noun** comes from the Latin word **nomen**, meaning “name.” Nouns are names of people, places, things, and ideas. Anything we can imagine has a name. If someone discovers a person, place, thing, or idea without a name, you can be sure that steps will be taken to remedy that situation.

Any nutritious sentence is chock full of nouns. In the examples below, each of the bold words is a noun.

My **friend**, **Buddy**, has a **Ph.D.** in **physics**.