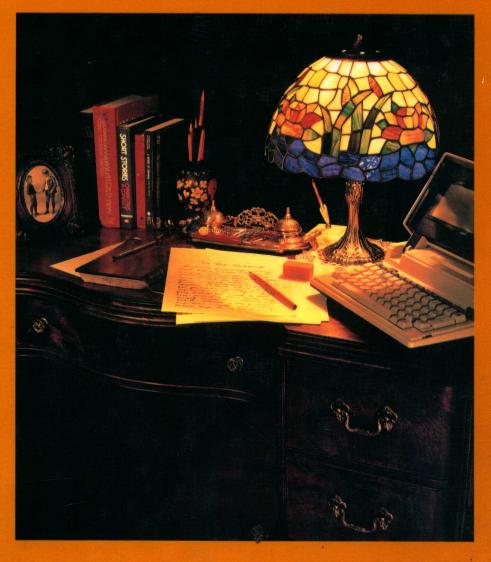
ENGLISH Composition and Grammar



SECOND COURSE



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BENCHMARK EDITION

John E. Warriner

作教

英语作文和污染。(清新、





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To the Student

A long time ago when education did not have to be so complicated as it must be today, the main subjects in school were referred to as the three R's: reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. As a familiar song says, they were "taught to the tune of a hickory stick." The hickory stick, fortunately, is not much used any more, but the three R's remain. Two of them, reading and writing, make up a large part of the school subject called English.

If someone were to ask you the unlikely question, "What do you do in English?" your reply might be something like this: "In English we read stories and poems and stuff like that. We write our own stories and poems and themes. We learn about nouns and verbs and, well, subjects and predicates, I guess. And we give talks in front of the class." This answer is a fairly good account of what you do in English.

A teacher, however, would use different terms in answering the same question. Instead of mentioning just stories and poems, a teacher might say you study *literature*. Writing stories, poems, and themes is practicing written *composition*. Noun, verb, subject, and predicate are terms used in the study of *grammar*. Talks in front of the class are a means of improving your *speech*. The four main areas of English, then, are literature, composition, grammar, and speech.

This book deals mainly with the last three of the four areas, composition, grammar, and speech. To use a language well, you need to know how it works. By studying grammar, you learn how the language works. This knowledge will help you to improve both your writing and your speech.

Although you write much less often than you speak, written composition demands a large amount of English time because writing is hard to learn. Each year in school you will be expected to do more written work in most of your classes, but it is only in English class that you learn how to write.

By writing well, you communicate with others. By speaking (and listening) well, you also communicate with others. Speech skills are a vital part of your education because you spend so much of every day talking with others.

Mastering the three areas in this textbook—composition, grammar, and speech—is not an easy task. However, you can do it if you have sound guidance. Your teacher is your most helpful guide, but your textbook is also an important guide. Study it, follow the rules, do the practice exercises, and whenever you write or speak, put to use what you have learned. You will find your work will improve steadily.

J. W.

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