

· ENGLISH IN FOCUS

English in Education

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
1977

Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

OXFORD LONDON GLASGOW NEW YORK
TORONTO MELBOURNE WELLINGTON CAPE TOWN
IBADAN NAIROBI DAR ES SALAAM LUSAKA ADDIS ABABA
KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE JAKARTA HONG KONG TOKYO
DELHI BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS KARACHI

ISBN 0 19 437516 1 Student's Book
ISBN 0 19 437507 2 Teacher's Edition

© Oxford University Press 1977

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PRINTED AND BOUND IN ENGLAND BY
HAZELL WATSON AND VINEY LTD
AYLESBURY, BUCKS

Introduction

The aim of this book is to develop a basic knowledge of how English is used for communication in dealing with topics in Education. It is intended for students who already know how to handle common English sentence patterns but who need to learn how these patterns are used to convey information and to conduct coherent discussion.

The exercises direct the student's attention to certain features of English which are commonly used in textbooks about Education. The aim is to provide the student with a strategy for reading more difficult texts in this subject area and to prepare him for making effective use of English in his own writing.

Although the emphasis is on English as a medium of expression for communicating ideas about Education, the basic elements of the language have not been neglected. Pattern practice is provided, particularly in the Forms and Functions and Guided Writing sections of each unit, but this kind of work is always presented in relation to a communicative context and not simply as an exercise in making sentences for their own sake.

This book does not aim at teaching the subject-matter of Education, and it does not aim at teaching grammatical structures and vocabulary as such. Its purpose is to show how language is used as a medium for the study of Education, and so to give students a grounding in one particular set of communication skills in English.

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1 Sociology and Education

I READING AND COMPREHENSION

¹Sociology is the term used to describe the scientific study of human society.

²Other fields of study, such as philosophy and psychology, examine the behaviour of individuals. ³Sociologists, however, study the groups formed by human beings, the nature of these groups, and the way people behave within groups.

Study the following statements carefully and write down whether they are true or not true according to the information expressed above. Then check your answers by referring to the solutions at the end of the passage.*

- (a) Sociology is a field of study which examines human society.
- (b) Sociologists study groups rather than individuals.

⁴There are, therefore, two main starting points in the study of human behaviour: the individual and the group. ⁵The concept of the group is perhaps harder to grasp than that of the individual. ⁶There are so many different kinds of group: the family, the school, the football team, the village, and so on. ⁷The individual, on the other hand, is easier to imagine, as we are used to looking at the personal desires, motives, actions and achievements of individual people. ⁸The sociologist changes our perspective by showing how the group affects and is affected by the individual's desires and motives. ⁹He shows how the group influences individuals by encouraging or hindering different types of action.

- (c) Studying individuals is the starting point in studying human behaviour.
- (d) It is difficult to grasp the concept of the group because there are so many different kinds of group.

* The following symbols are used in the solutions:

e.g. for example

i.e. that is to say

= equals, means the same as

≠ does not equal, does not mean the same as

∴ therefore

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Solutions

- (a) Sociology is the scientific study of human society. (1)
OTHER FIELDS OF STUDY examine the behaviour of individuals. (2)
∴ Sociology is a field of study.
∴ *Sociology is a field of study which examines human society.*
- (b) Other fields of study examine the behaviour of individuals. (2)
Sociologists, however, study groups (not individuals). (3)
i.e. Sociologists study groups rather than individuals.
- (c) There are TWO main starting points in the study of human behaviour:
the individual AND the group. (4)
the starting point = the only starting point
∴ It is NOT TRUE that studying individuals is the (only) starting point in
studying human behaviour.
- (d) The concept of the group is harder to grasp. (5)
There are so many different kinds of group. (6)
*i.e. There are so many different kinds of group that the concept of the
group is hard to grasp.
= It is difficult to grasp the concept of the group because there are so many
different kinds of group.*

EXERCISE A Meaning assessment

Look at the following statements. Decide whether they are true or not true.
Say which statement expresses the main meaning of the passage.

1. Sociologists make us look at human behaviour in a new way.
2. Sociologists show how individuals influence groups, and groups affect individuals.

EXERCISE B Contextual reference

Look at this sentence:

Sociologists study the groups formed by human beings and the nature
of these groups. _____

The boxes and line show that *these groups* refers back to *the groups formed by human beings*.

Now write out the following sentences. One word or phrase has been put in a box. Put a box round the other word or phrase that it refers to, and link the two boxes with a line, as in the example above.

1. The concept of the group is perhaps harder to grasp than that of the individual.

2. There are, therefore, two main starting points in the study of human behaviour: the individual and the group.
3. The sociologist changes our perspective by showing how the group affects and is affected by the individual's desires and motives. He shows how the group influences individuals.

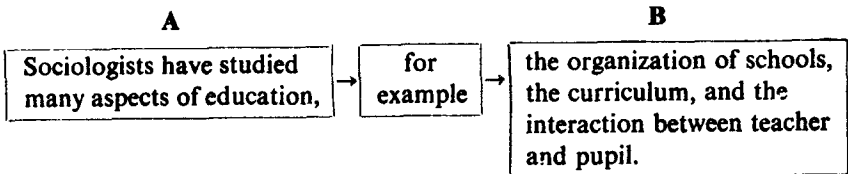
EXERCISE C *Rephrasing*

In the following sentences some expressions are in *italics*. Replace them with other expressions from the text which have the same meaning.

1. Sociologists *study* the groups formed by human beings.
2. Sociologists study *the way people behave*.
3. The sociologist shows how the group *affects* individuals.
4. The concept of the group is perhaps harder to *grasp* than that of the individual.

EXERCISE D *Relationship between statements*

Look at this diagram:



For example is a linking expression. It joins the two parts of the sentence, and shows that Part B is an *example* of Part A.

Write out two sentences from the following phrases by putting in *for example* as a linking expression.

the family, the school,
the football team, the
village and so on

philosophy and psychology,
examine the behaviour of individuals

there are so many
different kinds of
groups

other fields of study

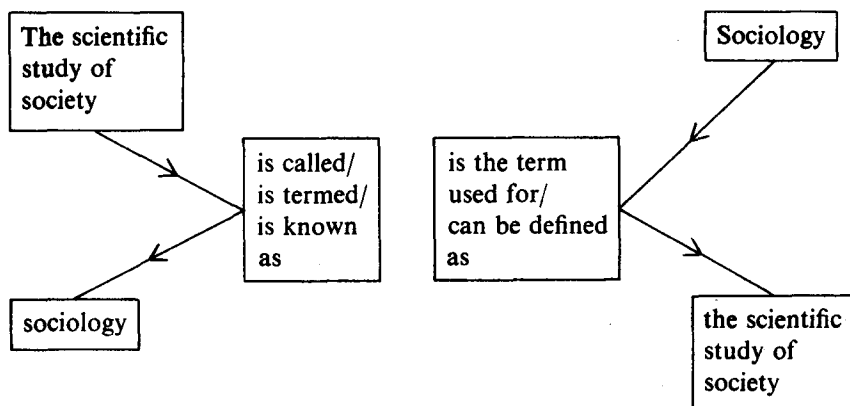
EXERCISE E *Definitions and statements based on diagrams*

1. Look at the following diagrams, and use them to write as many different forms as possible of the definition of sociology.

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EXAMPLE

The scientific study of society is called sociology.



2. Now look up the following words in the dictionary:

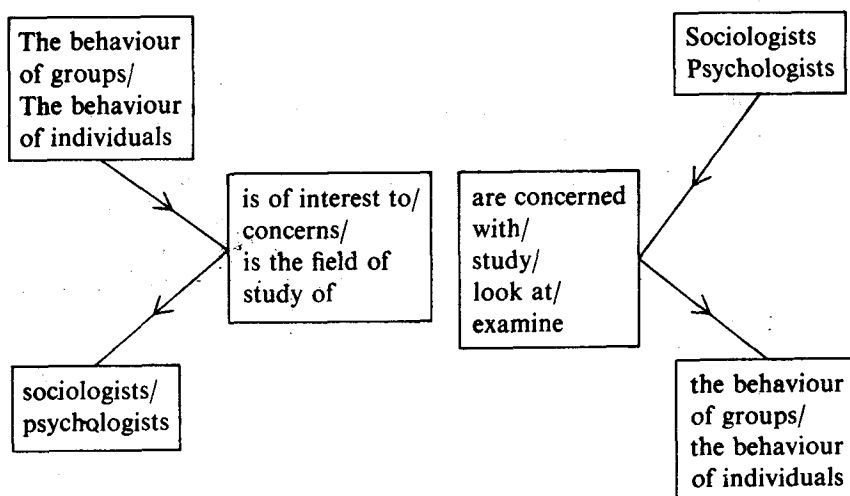
history, geology, zoology, geography, biology, etymology, physics, chemistry.

Write definitions of these words, using the above diagrams as models.

3. Study these diagrams, and use them to write out as many statements as you can about sociologists and psychologists.

EXAMPLE

Psychologists are concerned with the study of individuals.



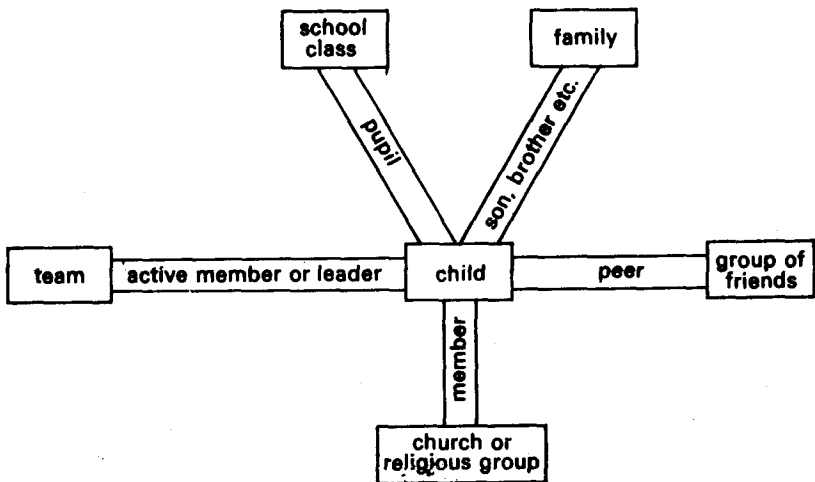
4. Now look up the following words in a dictionary:

linguist, archaeologist, anthropologist, ornithologist, botanist, astronomer.

Write statements, using these words, following the models given in the diagrams.

II PROBLEMS

The following diagram shows some of the different groups to which a child may belong. In each group he may play several parts, or *roles*, but one role will be of major importance. In the diagram, the lines connecting the child to the groups show the major roles he plays.



A. Arrange in the table below the information given in the diagram.

	GROUP	ROLE
child		

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B. Check the following statements with the information given in your table to see if they are right or wrong.

1. The child's major role in the family is that of a peer.
2. The child's major role in the church or religious organization is that of an active member.
3. The child's major role in the group of friends is that of a brother.
4. The child's major role in the school class is that of a member.
5. The child's major role in the team is that of an active member or leader.

C. Using the information given in the diagram, write as many statements as possible about the child's different roles in different groups.

EXAMPLE

The child's role in the school class is that of a pupil.

III FORMS AND FUNCTIONS

EXERCISE A *The use of the definite article*

Look at the definite article where it is printed in italics in these sentences:

The child learns the behaviour patterns of the group into which he is born.
There are many different kinds of group: *the* family, *the* school, *the* football team, *the* village, and so on.

The definite article is often used with a singular noun to show that the single noun represents a whole class of objects.

Thus:

The child learns the behaviour patterns of the group into which he is born means:

All children learn the behaviour patterns of the group into which they are born.

1. Rewrite the following sentences, using the definite article and singular nouns whenever you can to replace expressions referring to a whole class of objects.

EXAMPLE

Children absorb a great deal of knowledge about the world through contact with their families.

The child absorbs a great deal of knowledge about the world through contact with his family.

- (a) Families have their own regular patterns of behaviour.
- (b) One of the functions of families is to prepare children for the larger world.

- (c) Adults act as intermediaries between children and the wider society and so children learn to see society in the way adults do.
 - (d) Families are changing fast in the modern world as wives go out to work and thus gain economic independence from their husbands.
 - (e) Families are also changing as a result of urbanization, that is, movement of the population away from villages into cities.
 - (f) In cities, small communities can become isolated from the others, and this can lead to serious social divisions.
2. Read the following pairs of sentences carefully and decide whether the second sentence of each pair accurately gives the meaning of the first.
- (a) As children grow up, they encounter and join different groups.
As the child grows up, he encounters and joins a different group.
 - (b) Children of the same age who form a group are called a 'peer-group'.
The child of the same age who forms a group is called a 'peer-group'.
 - (c) Peer groups have their own order and structure which they impose on the children within them.
The peer group has its own order and structure which it imposes on the children within it.
 - (d) Sometimes teachers demand different behaviour from that required by the peer groups, and children may experience conflict as a result.
Sometimes the teacher demands different behaviour from that required by the peer group, and the child may experience conflict as a result.
 - (e) Groups can put strong pressures on individuals to behave in a certain way.
A group can put strong pressures on an individual to behave in a certain way.

EXERCISE B *Sentence formation from words*

When reading sociological texts, you are often asked to look at familiar things in a new way. This may be suggested by the use of the following expressions:

- | | |
|-------|--------------------|
| NOUNS | perspective |
| | point of view |
| | emphasis |
| VERBS | focus on |
| | view . . . as |
| | see . . . as |
| | look upon . . . as |

EXAMPLES

In sociological studies the *emphasis* is on the organization of social groups.

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Education may be studied from two different *perspectives*, that of the child, and that of the school system. .

From the *point of view* of the teacher, the child's role is that of pupil.

Sociologists *look upon* the school *as* a complex social group.

The sociology of education *focuses on* the development of the child through contact with other people.

Make correct sentences from the following groups of words:

EXAMPLE

sociologists / focus on / individual / member / group

Sociologists focus on the individual as a member of the group.

1. psychologist / emphasis / behaviour / individual people
2. sociologist / views / personal desires and motives / as / result / influence / group
3. sociological studies / different perspective / other studies / philosophy and psychology
4. most people / focus on / personal desires / achievements / individuals
5. sociologist / sees / groups / formed by human beings / as / complex structures
6. sociologist / looks upon / child / as / product / a particular society

IV GUIDED WRITING

STAGE 1 Sentence building

Join each of the eleven groups of words below into one sentence, using the extra material at the beginning of each group. Leave out the words in italics. Begin each sentence with a capital letter.

1. IF/THEY/THE/OF
children cannot develop
children do not have help and company
the help and company comes from other human beings
2. SOMETHING/BUT/IT/IS/SOMETHING WHICH/ALSO
culture is made by man
culture shapes man
3. IN SOCIOLOGY/THE
the term 'culture' can be defined as 'way of life'
the way of life is of a society as a whole

4. THE VAST MAJORITY OF/CLOSELY/TO WHICH
most people are controlled by their culture
the culture is of the group
they belong to the group
5. THE/OF A GROUP OR NATION/THE/THEY/,/THE/THEY HOLD/AND/
 THE/THEY RECOGNIZE
culture is a set of behaviour patterns
the group share behaviour patterns
values and beliefs are held by the group
symbols are recognized by the group
6. OF COURSE/,/CAN REMOVE HIMSELF/FROM
sometimes an individual moves
he leaves his background
7. IN
this is shown
the development of a child shows this
8. THUS/THAT/BY/AND/BY
we can see the behaviour of human beings
it is controlled from the beginning
their relationships with each other control their behaviour
their membership of groups controls their behaviour
9. ,/HOWEVER/,/RELATIVELY
this is uncommon
10. ,/HIS/NATURALLY/BY THE CULTURE/WHICH
the child's development will be affected
the child's attitudes and values will be greatly affected
those around him belong to a culture
11. FREE HIMSELF FROM/WHICH
he can become free of the conditions
his group has imposed conditions on him

STAGE 2 Paragraph building

Write a complete paragraph by putting the eleven sentences into a logical order. Use the following table which shows the nature of the sentences and the order in which they should be placed. You will notice that the paragraph falls into three main parts:

a definition
 an example
 an exception