

A. J. Thomson and A. V. Martinet

A Practical
English Grammar

Exercises 1

Second Edition

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Preface to the second edition

This is one of two books of exercises designed to accompany *A Practical English Grammar*. To coincide with the publication of the third edition of the *Grammar* the books have been reissued in a larger format with some minor changes. The text has been altered where necessary to bring the language and content up to date; the numbering of the sections has been rationalized; the 185 individual exercises have been renumbered in a single sequence for ease of reference; and the references printed at the head of each exercise are now to the third edition of the *Grammar*. In other respects the books are largely unaltered.

As in the original edition, the exercises in Book 1 are graded 'A', 'B' and 'C'. 'A' means difficult, 'B' means moderately difficult and 'C' means easy. These gradings are printed at the head of each exercise. In Book 2 all the exercises are of an intermediate difficulty and have not therefore been graded by letters in this way.

Some of the exercises are in the form of a dialogue between two people. Quotation marks are not used here but the second remark is usually printed directly below the first. Where both remarks are very short, they sometimes follow each other on the same line with a space between them.

Keys to most of the exercises will be found at the end of the book. It has not been felt necessary to provide keys for every exercise.

It will be noticed that in some places the old imperial weights and measures have been retained, in others they have been replaced by metric ones. This is deliberate, as both forms are in daily use among English speakers.

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(based on chapters 16 and 17 of *A Practical English Grammar*)

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1 Present and past tenses

1 Auxiliary verbs

C PEG 102-3

Read the following

a in the negative

b in the interrogative

c in the third person singular

(Auxiliaries are used both by themselves and as part of various tenses of ordinary verbs.)

Note

1 **may** for 'possibility' cannot be used in the interrogative at the beginning of a sentence. Instead we use a phrase such as 'Do you think that' + a future tense, or 'Is it likely' + an infinitive.

e.g. No. 1 Am I likely to see him?

No. 13 Do you think that they will come?

2 Use **needn't** as the negative of **must** in Nos. 15, 23, and 30.

1 I may see him.

2 They should read more.

3 You are six feet tall.

4 We are seeing Mary tomorrow.

5 They can play the guitar.

6 The girls are playing tennis.

7 We can tell you the time.

8 The birds are eating the buds.

9 I can show him the way.

10 They have a house.

11 My boss will be angry.

12 Tom and Ann can go by bus.

13 They may come tonight.

14 We are cleaning our own shoes.

15 They must obey me.

16 The boys have seen the comet.

17 These lakes are deep.

2 PRESENT AND PAST TENSES

- 18 These exercises are all wrong.
- 19 They are very cold.
- 20 They may (*permission*) take the car.
- 21 They have made a cake.
- 22 These nests are made by wasps.
- 23 You must be quick.
- 24 Their gardens are full of weeds.
- 25 They are in a hurry.
- 26 You have a lot of grey hairs.
- 27 I am ashamed.
- 28 You'll be able to drive in a few days.
- 29 They have written to him.
- 30 We must lend him some money.
- 31 The cows are walking on the daffodils.
- 32 These plays are written by the students.
- 33 They will be ill if they eat it.
- 34 These repairs will take a long time.
- 35 Some pearls are made by oysters.
- 36 I have a bad cold.

2 Auxiliary verbs

C PEG 102-3

Put the following verbs into the past tense. (Auxiliaries are used both by themselves and as part of certain forms and tenses of ordinary verbs.)

Use **had to** as the past tense of **must**.

- 1 He *isn't working* hard.
- 2 She *doesn't like* cats.
- 3 I *can't say* anything.
- 4 We *must read* it carefully.
- 5 I *am afraid of* cows.
- 6 He *can lift* it easily.
- 7 It *isn't far from* London.
- 8 *Isn't it too heavy to carry?*
- 9 He *is mowing* the grass.
- 10 He *hopes that* Tom will be there.
- 11 How much *does this cost?*
- 12 They *haven't much* money.
- 13 How *old is* he?
- 14 Do you *see any difference?*

- 15 I do what I can.
- 16 How far can you swim?
- 17 You must change that.
- 18 Tom can always ride my bicycle.
- 19 What time is it?
- 20 Have you time to do it?
- 21 Are you frightened?
- 22 Must you pay for it yourself?
- 23 What have you got in the box?
- 24 We hope that he'll come.
- 25 He says that she may not be in time. (He said that she . . .)
- 26 Do you understand what he is saying? I don't.
- 27 There are accidents every day at these crossroads.
- 28 She thinks that it may cost £100. (She thought that it . . .)
- 29 Doesn't Mr Pitt know your address?
- 30 They aren't expecting me, are they?
- 31 He thinks that the snakes may be dangerous. (see 28)
- 32 She wants to know if she may borrow the car. (She wanted to know if . . .)
- 33 Is she interested in crocodiles?
- 34 Tom is certain that he will win.
- 35 Can you read the notice? No, I can't.
- 36 I don't think that the bull will attack us.

3 Auxiliary verbs

C PEG 104

Answer the following questions

a in the affirmative

b in the negative

in each case repeating the auxiliary and using a pronoun as subject.

e.g. Do you need this? Answer: Yes, I do. No, I don't.

Can Tom swim? Answer: Yes, he can. No, he can't.

Use **needn't** as the negative of **must**.

- 1 Is the water deep?
- 2 Do you know the way?
- 3 Can you swim?
- 4 Does he come every day?

4 PRESENT AND PAST TENSES

- 5 Are you afraid of ghosts?
- 6 Are you feeling better?
- 7 Must you go?
- 8 Are you enjoying this?
- 9 Does he know you?
- 10 Are your neighbours noisy?
- 11 May I borrow your car?
- 12 Is English difficult?
- 13 Will she see him?
- 14 Do you play cards?
- 15 Should I tell the police?
- 16 Can you cook?
- 17 Are you Mr Pitt?
- 18 Did she sing well?
- 19 Is your name Pitt?
- 20 Were they frightened?
- 21 Will his mother be there?
- 22 Ought I to get a new hat?
- 23 Should I marry him?
- 24 Was the driver killed?
- 25 Have you any money?
- 26 Did you dismiss him?
- 27 Do you live here?
- 28 Should we cut the grass?
- 29 Is he happy?
- 30 Is it cold today?
- 31 Can I help you?
- 32 Must you type it?
- 33 Are you having a bath?
- 34 Am I in your way?
- 35 Does he love you?
- 36 Are you hungry?

4 The simple present tense

C PEG 168-9

Read the following in the third person singular. Do not change the object if it is plural.

- 1 I think I am right.
- 2 Policemen often direct traffic.

- 3 They help their father.
- 4 Butchers sell meat.
- 5 We live in London.
- 6 They worry too much.
- 7 You drive too quickly.
- 8 I always carry an umbrella.
- 9 Why do dogs bark?
- 10 His sons go to the local school.
- 11 Cats don't bark.
- 12 Buses go every ten minutes.
- 13 I always read the *Guardian*.
- 14 Do you like boiled eggs for breakfast?
- 15 These seats cost £2.
- 16 I go to church on Sundays.
- 17 Elephants never forget.
- 18 You make very bad coffee.
- 19 Do ducks lay big eggs?
- 20 I often forget my own age.
- 21 Do you like snails?
- 22 Do you often eat garlic?
- 23 I cook my own meals.
- 24 Englishmen seldom speak at breakfast.
- 25 Detectives don't wear uniform.
- 26 What do they do?
They do nothing. They lie in bed all day.
- 27 Good children always obey their parents.
- 28 They kiss their mother when they come home from school.
- 29 Englishmen rush home when the day's work is over.
- 30 The boys box in the gymnasium on Fridays.
- 31 His dogs always attack strangers.
- 32 These hotels don't allow dogs.
- 33 Motor cycles don't make a lot of noise.
- 34 I brush my hair every night.
- 35 My hens often fly over the wall and lay eggs in Mr Pitt's garden.
- 36 They do exercises every morning before breakfast.

5 The simple present tense

C PEG 168-9

Read the following

a in the negative

b in the interrogative.

In Nos. 2 and 14, **have** is used as an ordinary verb and should be treated as one.

- 1 You know the answer.
- 2 He has breakfast at 8.00.
- 3 Jack loves Jill.
- 4 Some schoolgirls wear uniforms.
- 5 He trusts you.
- 6 It melts in the sun.
- 7 The bell rings at 8.00.
- 8 The flowers look fresh.
- 9 Those children like sweets.
- 10 He thinks too much.
- 11 He lives beside the sea.
- 12 They talk in their sleep.
- 13 This stove heats the water.
- 14 She has a cold bath every day.
- 15 Climbers often carry ropes.
- 16 He usually believes you.
- 17 He sows seeds in the spring.
- 18 I remember the address.
- 19 She plays chess very well.
- 20 They always forget to pay.
- 21 These thieves usually work at night.
- 22 He leaves home at 8.00 every day.
- 23 Most men shave every day.
- 24 She agrees with you.
- 25 Their dogs bark all night.
- 26 Their neighbours often complain.
- 27 Tom enjoys driving at night.
- 28 They feel very cold.
- 29 Tom looks very well.
- 30 They sell fresh grape juice here.
- 31 She spends all her money on clothes.
- 32 She cuts her husband's hair every week.

- 33 They pick the apples in October.
- 34 The last train leaves at midnight.
- 35 This car breaks down frequently.
- 36 That planet moves round the sun.

6 The present continuous tense

C PEG 160-4

Put the verbs in brackets into the present continuous tense. In No. 25, **have** is used as an ordinary verb and can therefore be used in the continuous tense.

- 1 She (not work), she (swim) in the river.
- 2 He (teach) his boy to ride.
- 3 Why Ann (not wear) her new dress?
- 4 The aeroplane (fly) at 2,000 metres.
- 5 What Tom (do) now? He (clean) his shoes.
- 6 This fire (go) out. Somebody (bring) more coal?
- 7 It (rain)?
Yes, it (rain) very hard. You can't go out yet.
- 8 You (mend) my shirt.
- 9 You (not tell) the truth.
How do you know that I (not tell) the truth?
- 10 Who (move) the furniture about upstairs?
It's Tom. He (paint) the front bedroom.
- 11 Mrs Jones (sweep) the steps outside her house.
- 12 What you (read) now? I (read) *Crime and Punishment*.
- 13 It is a lovely day. The sun (shine) and the birds (sing).
- 14 Someone (knock) at the door. You (not go) to answer it?
I (go) in a minute. I just (get) out of my bath.
- 15 She always (ring) up asking silly questions.
- 16 My mother doesn't usually make cakes on Mondays, but she (make) one today as my aunt (come) to tea tomorrow.
- 17 Where is Tom? He (lie) under the car.
- 18 Can I borrow your pen or you (use) it at the moment?
- 19 You (do) anything this evening? No, I'm not.
Well, I (go) to the cinema. Would you like to come with me?
- 20 Child: Come and look. The house across the road is on fire!
Mother: I can't come now, I (make) an omelette. Is the Fire Brigade there?

8 PRESENT AND PAST TENSES

Child: Yes, they have just arrived and the men (jump) down from the engine.

21 Mother: What the people of the house (do)?

Child: Some of them (stand) in the street holding a blanket and others (throw) things down from the windows.

22 A woman (wave) from the attic. I think she is trapped. Perhaps the stairs (blaze).

23 The firemen (put) up a ladder, and one of them (climb) up to help her.

24 Now the fireman (come) down again. He (carry) a baby. The woman (follow).

25 We (have) breakfast at 8.00 tomorrow because Tom (catch) an early train.

26 Why you (type) so fast? You (make) a lot of mistakes.

27 What is the strange smell?

The people next door (cook) cabbage.

28 Tom usually feeds the hens but I (do) it today as he isn't well.

29 You can't see Ann because she (rest). She always rests after lunch.

30 They (dig) an enormous hole just outside my gate.

Why they (dig) it?

I don't know. Perhaps they (look) for oil.

31 What (make) that terrible noise?

It's the pneumatic drill. They (repair) the road.

32 The children are very quiet. Go and see what they (do).

They (cut) up some £5 notes.

33 What you (wait) for?

I (wait) for my change; the boy just (get) it.

34 I can't hear what you (say); the traffic (make) too much noise.

35 She always (lose) her glasses and asking me to look for them.

36 Why you (hide) the bottles?

I (hide) them because my mother-in-law (come) to dinner tomorrow and she doesn't approve of drink.

7 The simple present and the present continuous

B PEG 160-71

Put the verbs in brackets into the simple present or the present continuous tense.

1 Cuckoos (not build) nests. They (use) the nests of other birds.

2 You can't see Tom now: he (have) a bath.

- 3 He usually (drink) coffee but today he (drink) tea.
- 4 What she (do) in the evenings?
She usually (play) cards or (watch) TV.
- 5 I won't go out now as it (rain) and I (not have) an umbrella.
- 6 The last train (leave) the station at 11.30.
- 7 He usually (speak) so quickly that I (not understand) him.
- 8 Ann (make) a dress for herself at the moment. She (make) all her own clothes.
- 9 Hardly anyone (wear) a hat nowadays.
- 10 I'm afraid I've broken one of your coffee cups.
Don't worry. I (not like) that set anyway.
- 11 I (wear) my sunglasses today because the sun is very strong.
- 12 Tom can't have the newspaper now because his aunt (read) it.
- 13 I can't answer the phone now because I (paper) the sitting room walls.
- 14 The kettle (boil) now. Shall I make the tea?
- 15 You (enjoy) yourself or would you like to leave now?
I (enjoy) myself very much. I (want) to stay to the end.
- 16 How you (get) to work as a rule?
I usually (go) by bus but tomorrow I (go) in Tom's car.
- 17 Why you (put) on your coat?
I (go) for a walk. You (come) with me?
Yes, I'd love to come. You (mind) if I bring my dog?
- 18 How much you (owe) him? I (owe) him £5.
You (intend) to pay him?
- 19 You (belong) to your local library? Yes, I do.
You (read) a lot? Yes, quite a lot.
How often you (change) your books? I (change) one every day.
- 20 Mary usually (learn) languages very quickly but she (not seem) able to learn modern Greek.
- 21 I always (buy) lottery tickets but I never (win) anything.
- 22 You (like) this necklace? I (give) it to my daughter for her birthday tomorrow.
- 23 I won't tell you my secret unless you (promise) not to tell anyone.
I (promise).
- 24 You always (write) with your left hand?
- 25 You (love) him?
No, I (like) him very much but I (not love) him.
- 26 You (dream) at night?
Yes, I always (dream) and if I (eat) too much supper I (have) nightmares.
- 27 Who (whistle)? It is Mr Pitt. He (feel) happy.