

a thousand sentences



GATTEGNO

**A
THOUSAND
SENTENCES**

BY

CALEB GATTEGNO

**EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS
New York City**

By the same author:

Short Passages, 1968

Eight Tales, 1968

in the "Silent Way" series

© C. Gattegno 1974

ISBN 0-87825-007-7

Published by Educational Solutions Inc.

80 Fifth Avenue

New York, N. Y. 10011 USA

Preface

The sentences in this book are generally short in length and direct in expression. They aim to provide a first exercise for students who are not ready to read a whole book in the English language. At the same time the sentences are designed to convey a picture of some aspects of social and cultural life in the United States.

Although the sentences have been constructed in such a way that the meanings of some words can be inferred from the context, a printed text cannot by itself guarantee that it will be understood by all readers. Teachers who use this book will find that it is most effective when used in conjunction with visual materials — for example, the Silent Way wall pictures, newspapers and magazines. The organization of the subject matter covered by the sentences, fanning out from the home to the larger technological society, facilitates the selection of suitable materials.

It is not imperative to follow the sequence of the book. Students can be invited to begin with those sections that are most accessible to them, or that are of topical or personal interest for them, and compile their own associated materials so that they gather the vocabulary that relates to this area of experience. With such a flexible approach the use of a dictionary will fall into place, as an additional but not primary means of coming to terms with the English language.

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Preface	vii
	<u>Sentence</u>
My house	1 - 18
Eating	19 - 47
On bedrooms	48 - 75
The living-room	76 - 89
In the kitchen	90 - 116
In and around the house	117 - 144
Outside the house	145 - 204
Jobs and professions.	205 - 243
Education	244 - 251
Family relationships.	252 - 285
Holidays and anniversaries	286 - 312
Driving and transportation.	313 - 339
On taxis	340 - 356
Theater and entertainment.	357 - 392
Music and concerts	393 - 420
Writing and painting	421 - 446
Toiletry and beauty care	447 - 473
Clothing	474 - 504
The armed forces.	505 - 519
Navigation	520 - 536

	<u>Sentence</u>
Travelling	537 - 545
Standard of living	546 - 565
The State	566 - 586
Agriculture	587 - 617
Sports	618 - 649
Immigration	650 - 661
Working at night	662 - 675
Seas and rivers	676 - 693
Cleaning and laundry	694 - 709
Relaxation	710 - 734
Feelings	735 - 748
Accidents and wounds	749 - 764
On bees and wax	765 - 782
Smoking	783 - 797
Drinking	798 - 815
Trains and stations	816 - 850
Shopping	851 - 861
Post offices and mail	862 - 893
Telephone	894 - 910
Correspondence	911 - 919
News and the press	920 - 933
On laughter	934 - 946
Money	947 - 972
Animals and pets	973 - 991
The Future	992 - 1001



My house

1. I live in a house.
2. There are six rooms in my house.
3. The dining room is one of them.
4. Three of the others are bedrooms.
5. There is a living room and a kitchen.
6. There is also a bathroom.
7. We have most of our meals in the dining room.
8. In the morning we have breakfast in the kitchen.
9. We sleep in the bedrooms.
10. In the living room we talk together, listen to music, read or watch television.
11. We also entertain our guests there.
12. In the bathroom there is a bathtub, a shower, a sink, and a toilet.

13. In the dining room there are a table and six chairs and a buffet along the wall.
14. On the buffet there is a clock and sometimes a vase of flowers.
15. In the buffet we keep the plates, glasses, knives, and forks.
16. The plates are made of china.
17. The dinner plates are big and round; the bread and butter plates are round too, but smaller; there are bowls for soup, and cups and saucers for tea and coffee. All together these plates are called a dinner service.
18. The glasses are of different shapes and sizes for different drinks.



Eating

19. Some people like to have a light breakfast, but others, especially those who do physical work, eat a good meal in the morning.
20. Breakfast often begins with a glass of fruit juice.
21. This may be followed by cereal with milk and sugar.
22. In winter people often eat hot cereal.
23. The United States produces many cereals: wheat, corn, oats, barley, bran, etc.
24. Many people eat eggs for breakfast.

25. They are cooked in various ways and are often served with bacon or sausages.
26. Those who have a light breakfast may have only coffee and toast or a roll or a pastry.
27. The toast is served hot with butter and usually with jam as well.
28. Most Americans drink coffee with their breakfast, but some prefer tea or milk.
29. The two main meals of the day are lunch and dinner.
30. Eating customs vary throughout the United States.
31. This is partly because of climate and partly because different parts of the country have been influenced by the customs that foreigners have brought with them.
32. Italian, French, Jewish, Chinese, and Greek cultures are among those which have greatly influenced American eating habits.
33. In general, Americans are meat eaters.
34. The U.S. produces excellent beef, lamb, and pork.
35. Poultry, especially turkey, is also eaten on such holidays as Thanksgiving and Christmas.
36. Fried chicken is an everyday dish, particularly in the South.
37. Fish, and especially shellfish, are also very popular.

38. Two American dishes that have become famous are the hamburger and the hot dog.
39. These days most foods can be bought frozen.
40. Dinner is in the evening and is usually the meal that the whole family eats together.
41. Sometimes dinner begins with a salad or, in winter, with soup.
42. Then comes the main dish, meat or fish with vegetables.
43. The third course is dessert, which may be hot or cold.
44. Ice cream, cheesecake or apple pie are popular desserts.
45. Ice cream is an American specialty, and one can find many different flavors.
46. Some Americans drink wine with their dinner; there is usually ice water and some other beverage served with meals, especially in restaurants.
47. Children drink milk, juice, or water with their meals.



On bedrooms

48. There are double beds for two people, single beds for one person, and cribs for babies.
49. People in bed lie on the mattress.
50. The mattress rests on a spring base.

51. Some modern mattresses have springs inside them, and others are made of rubber.
52. The bedding consists of two sheets, one or more blankets, and one or two pillows in pillow cases.
53. When it is very cold a quilt is sometimes added.
54. A bedspread is sometimes put over the bed (during the day).
55. Beside the bed there may be a night table.
56. On this night table there is usually a reading lamp and perhaps an alarm clock and something to read.
57. Against the walls are a dressing table and a chest of drawers.
58. Clothes are hung in the closets.
59. Closets are wardrobes built into the walls.
60. Underwear, handkerchiefs, stockings, socks, gloves, etc., are kept in drawers.
61. At the bottom of the closet one puts shoes, boots, sandals, sneakers, and slippers.
62. At the top of a closet there is often a shelf for hats.
63. On the dressing table are toilet articles: hair-brushes, combs, perfumes, powders, etc.
64. Usually there is a mirror attached either to the dressing table or to the back of a closet door.

65. In front of the dressing table there is a chair or stool.
66. On the floor there may be a rug or carpet.
67. In addition to the reading lamp on the night table, there may be a ceiling light or other lamps in the bedroom.
68. The light switch for one of these is usually on the wall near the door.
69. There may be another near the bed or on the wall behind the bed.
70. At night we sleep.
71. We wake up in the morning.
72. Sometimes we need the alarm clock to wake us.
73. After getting up we use the bathroom to wash or shave.
74. Then we have breakfast.
75. After breakfast those who must go to work or school leave.



The living-room

76. After returning from work we have dinner, and then we go into the living room.
77. In the living room there is a radio or a record player and a television set.
78. There are also armchairs and a couch.

79. Armchairs are more comfortable than straight-backed chairs.
80. They are softer and more inviting.
81. A couch has some features of an armchair and some of a bed.
82. It could be made up of two or three armchairs joined together, with arms only at the ends, or of a bed with a back.
83. When we have visitors we take them into the living room.
84. If there is a piano in the house, it will also be in the living room.
85. There may be a coffee table in the living room and other small tables, called end tables, for serving coffee or drinks. There may be ash-trays on them for people who smoke.
86. Sometimes we dance there.
87. Sometimes we play cards there as well.
88. We listen to music on the radio or on a record player.
89. The living room and the dining room are used by the whole family.



In the kitchen

90. The kitchen is an indispensable room; meals are prepared in the kitchen and food is kept there.

91. The stove on which one cooks may be fueled by gas, electricity or sometimes by coal, oil, or wood.
92. Pots and pans are put on the burners.
93. These days cooking utensils are often made of aluminum.
94. They need to be heavier for use on an electric stove than on a gas stove.
95. Earthenware pots are also used for wood and coal stoves, or in the oven.
96. The sink, with hot and cold water faucets, is usually built into one of the counters.
97. After being washed, the dishes are left on the counter to drain.
98. There are cabinets and shelves in the kitchen.
99. Things that are used often must be easily accessible.
100. A number of utensils are kept in the kitchen drawers. They are used for cutting meat or vegetables, for peeling or grating fruit or vegetables, for beating eggs and cream, for squeezing lemons and oranges, for opening cans, and for serving different dishes.
101. These days there are also a number of modern electrical appliances for the kitchen.
102. The mixer is one of these appliances and it has many uses.

103. Preparing soups and making cakes and other desserts is much easier since the invention of the mixer.
104. Many modern kitchens have electric dishwashers.
105. On the counters we prepare the food for cooking, and meals are often served there.
106. Somewhere in the kitchen there is a garbage pail.
107. Into it we throw waste paper and the parts of the food that we do not eat, such as vegetable peelings, fruit pits, etc.
108. Every day the garbage pail is emptied into the big trash can outside.
109. The trash can is emptied by the sanitation men, who are municipal workers.
110. This way the garbage is destroyed and the houses are kept clean and pleasant to live in.
111. In buildings where many people live there may be an incinerator for burning the garbage.
112. In most kitchens there is a refrigerator to keep food fresh.
113. In the refrigerator we keep vegetables, meat, butter, milk, cream, eggs, cheese, and drinks which need to be served cold.
114. In the top part of the refrigerator there is often a freezer compartment, which is very cold.
115. In the freezer we make ice, and we also keep frozen foods and ice cream.

116. Although one cooks standing up, there is often a table and chairs in the kitchen or stools at one of the counters.



In and around the house

117. In a house where several people live, one finds a great many objects of different sizes which are used for different things.
118. Rugs, carpets, linoleum, rubber, or wooden boards cover the floors of the rooms.
119. Pictures, engravings, photographs, or tapestries are hung on the walls.
120. Mirrors are sometimes hung on the walls too, sometimes for use and sometimes just for decoration or to reflect light.
121. Drapes and curtains are hung in front of the windows.
122. Slipcovers are sometimes put on armchairs and couches.
123. Hat racks and coat stands are placed near the front door, though these have more commonly been replaced by a coat closet.
124. Lights are attached to ceilings or walls, and lamps are placed on tables or on the floor.
125. Bath towels and hand towels are found in the bathroom.

126. Outside the front door a mat is placed so that people can wipe their shoes before entering a house.
127. A dwelling is a place where one lives.
128. It is usually called one's home as opposed to the place where one works.
129. In cities most people live in apartments.
130. In the country or the suburbs homes are much smaller, although they may be houses of more than one story.
131. In this case a house might have a basement below ground level and an attic under the roof. There are stairs for going from one story to another.
132. Apartment buildings have elevators and stairs.
133. There is often a garden around the house.
134. Flowers, trees, and shrubs are usually in front of the house.
135. There is often a back yard behind the house.
136. Some people plant a vegetable garden in their back yard.
137. Sometimes there are plants climbing on the fences or on part of the house; they are called vines.
138. The lawn is the part of the yard planted with grass, which is cut regularly.
139. Lawns and gardens demand a great deal of care.