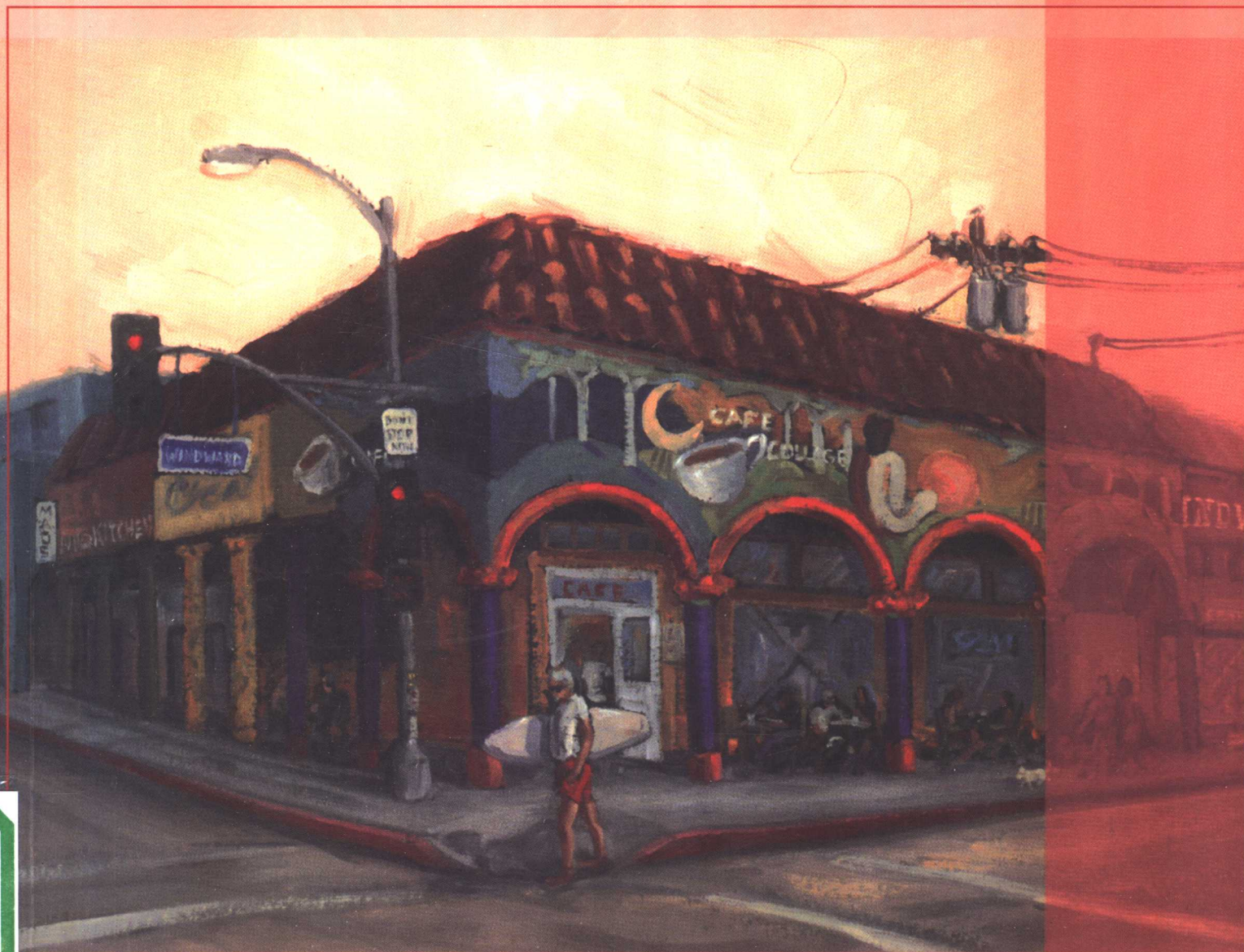


FOURTH EDITION (第四版)

GRAMMAR *in* CONTEXT

英语语境语法

2A



SANDRA N. ELBAUM



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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著作权合同登记 图字: 01-2006-0573

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语语境语法. 2A / 桑德拉编著. —北京: 北京大学出版社, 2006.1

ISBN 7-301-10312-3

I. 英… II. 桑… III. 英语-语法 IV. H314

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2005)第 145676 号

SANDRA N. ELBAUM

Grammar in Context 2A, Fourth Edition

EISBN: 1-4130-0743-0

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981-265-829-7

Thomson Learning (A division of Thomson Asia Pte Ltd)

5 Shenton Way, # 01-01 UIC Building Singapore 068808

书 名: 英语语境语法 2A (第四版)

著作责任者: SANDRA N. ELBAUM 编著

责任编辑: 胡 娜 张 冰

标准书号: ISBN 7-301-10312-3/H·1605

出版发行: 北京大学出版社

地 址: 北京市海淀区成府路 205 号 100871

网 址: <http://cbs.pku.edu.cn>

电 话: 邮购部 62752015 发行部 62750672 编辑部 62767347

电子邮箱: [zbing@pup.pku.edu.cn](mailto:zbing@pup.pku.edu.cn)

排 版 者: 华伦图文制作中心

印 刷 者: 北京大学印刷厂

经 销 者: 新华书店

889 毫米×1194 毫米 16 开本 18.75 印张 510 千字

2006 年 1 月第 1 版 2006 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 32.00 元(配有光盘)

# 导 言

北京大学英语系教授 王逢鑫

语言由语音、词汇和语法三个要素组成。学习一门外语,必须掌握这三个要素,缺一不可。有人认为只要记住单词,能读出音来,就行了,而语法可有可无。其实这是一种误解。语法是组词造句的法则,十分重要。传统英语语法细分为词法(morphology)和句法(syntax)。词法解释词分为哪些种类,即词类;告诉人们每个词类有什么特点,即词性;说明一个词与别的什么词可以联系在一起使用,即在句子里起什么作用。英语词汇形态与汉语有很大的区别。例如,名词有单、复数之分,还有可数与不可数之分。人称代词有主格、宾格和所有格之分。动词有现在式、过去式和过去分词三种不同形式;还有不定式、现在分词、过去分词和动名词等非谓语动词形式。形容词有原级、比较级和最高级三种形式。数词有基数词和序数词之分。以上词类大都是规则变化,但是也有很多不规则变化的例外情况。例如英语有一百来个不规则动词,其中多数是常用动词。介词后面跟人称代词要用宾格,跟动词要用动名词形式。英语的冠词更是难学。有人学了多年英语,还是弄不清楚什么时候用定冠词,什么时候用不定冠词,什么时候不用任何冠词。虽然不定冠词仅有 a 和 an 两种形式,但是有人把 an hour 写成 a hour,把 a university 写成 an university。这些繁杂的内容都是初学者必须掌握的,使用不当就要犯错误。

英语句法分析句子的种类、结构和功能。英语句法比汉语复杂。英语有各种各样的时态,每种时态有自己固定的形式,不能用错。句法规则繁多,几乎没有什么道理可讲。例如,在一般现在时里,单数第三人称的动词要加-s。情态动词和助动词后面要跟原形动词。英语句子讲究人称和时态前后呼应,左右照顾。诸如此类的条条框框都是初学者的“拦路虎”。

国内外的语言学家和英语教师,曾经尝试使用各种各样的方法来教英语语法。时代不同,学习目的不同,教学对象不同,教材不同,学习方法不同,使得人们很难找到学习英语语法的一个最佳方案。但是,我们了解一下国内外英语语法教学的来龙去脉,或许有助于我们吸取教训,总结经验,寻找有效的学习英语语法的途径。

传统法(traditional method)强调以语法为纲,以语法为教学中心。学生按部就班学习语法规则,先是死记硬背条条框框,然后做大量的机械性(mechanical)练习,基本上是没有上下文的单句翻译、语法填空和造句练习。追求的是语法形式正确无误,而不管在什么情况下使用语言。学习语法,不是为了交际,而是为了阅读内容艰深的文章,分析复杂的句法结构。我国解放前和解放初期的英语专业大学生,是通过传统法学习英语语法的,虽然有一些弊端,例如引导学生重视阅读和笔译,而忽视口头表达能力的培养。但是这种方法也并非一无是处。学生中不乏精通英语的成功者。传统法强调阅读小说、诗歌、戏剧和散文等文学作品,认为文学语言是最好的语言。通过对语句和篇章细致的句法分析,学生获得对语句和篇章

结构,尤其是繁杂结构的精确理解。今天我们强调学习语言是为了交流思想,重视口头表达能力,传统法是难当此任的。

听说法(audio-visual method)将英语分成许多基本句型(sentence pattern),将语法教学与句型教学结合在一起。要求学生熟练掌握句型,反复口头练习,达到不假思索,脱口而出的程度。掌握了句型,就等于掌握了语法。20世纪60年代初,听说法引入我国,在当时的英语专业大学生中间曾经奏效。学生反复练习没有上下文的基本句型,虽然枯燥无味,但是在当时的历史环境下,多数学生能够不厌其烦地做大量的机械性口头练习,而取得较好的学习效果。现在的学生要求在学习过程中有更多的独立自主,对死记硬背基本句型不太感兴趣。利用听说法学习英语语法似乎不太合乎时宜了。

语言学家和英语教师总是想方设法改进语法教学。他们先是将以单句练习为主的机械性句型练习,扩充为共有两句话的二人对话,构成一个简单的情景,使所练习的句型变得有意义。再往后,进一步将二人对话扩大为围绕一个主题的、有上下文的情景会话(situational conversation)。这样,学生可以在一定的语境(context)之中通过句型学习英语语法。最初的语境是为了练习某个语言点,或为了掌握某种意念功能而编造的,具有人为的成分。20世纪80年代初,国内外兴起交际法(communicative method)。这种教学方法的目标是让学生不仅学会听、说、读、写的语言能力(linguistic competence),还要掌握交际能力(communicative competence)。交际法从交流的目的出发,既要求语法正确(correct in grammar),更要求语用得体的(appropriate in use)。因而在教学中引进了社会与文化因素。学习内容不再是干巴巴的基本句型,而是人们关注的社会问题和文化现象。学生不再为学习语法而学习语法,而是为了交际来学习语法。他们希望能够使用语法正确、语用得体的语言,就人们关注的社会问题和文化现象进行交流。这样就需要在一定的社会环境和文化语境里学习语言,包括学习语法。在学习语言的同时,必须了解英语国家的文化背景,以及中外文化差异。只有学习了相关的文化背景知识,才能更好地掌握语言。这套名为Grammar in Context (《英语语境语法》)的教材,在上述背景下应运而生。

## 二

这套《英语语境语法》的编者 Sandra N. Elbaum 女士,是美国的一位英语教师,专门教授从世界各地到美国的移民,他们是以英语为第二语言的学生。Elbaum 女士幼年随父母由波兰移民到美国,语言差异和文化差异经常使她的父母感到困惑。Elbaum 女士在移民聚居的社区中成长,深知一个外国移民在美国生存,不仅要逾越语言障碍,更要克服文化差异。她有一个信念,就是通过语境学习语法。她不但在教学中身体力行,通过语境教英语语法,而且亲自编写教材,体现这一理念。

这套英语教材名曰《英语语境语法》,实际上是教给学生通过语境学习英语语言。这套教材的宗旨是:让学习者在语境中学习语法,以便学到更多东西,记住更多东西,更加有效地运用语言。

这套教材有如下突出特点:

1. 教给学生进行口头交流和书面交流所必需的语法知识。按照循序渐进原则安排语法点,讲解后面的语法内容都联系和复习前面的语法内容,使整个语法系统构成一个有机的整体。解释每个语法点,都使用形象的语法图表(grammar chart),一目了然。每个语法图表提供有语境的精选例句,并给出清晰的解释,还配以语言提示(language note),增强学习者对所学语法结构的理解。每个语法点还以图表方式解释其形式、用途、语序、主语、相关结构、描述与定义、所需介词搭配、肯

定句、否定句和疑问句及回答等项目。每个项目都配有大量的口头和笔头练习。

2. 不是为教语法而教语法,而是通过语法教学,给学习者提供有用的(usable)、有意义的(meaningful)技能和基本文化知识。在课堂上,教师不是局限于让学生做机械性练习,而是让他们通过二人对话、小组活动、游戏、讨论等多种形式的扩展活动(expansion activity),互相启发,互相帮助,学以致用。通过阅读、作文、独立思考的练习等方式,学习者拓展自己的语言知识和交际能力,最终达到既能有效使用语言,又有信心正确使用语言进行交流的双重目的。
3. 教材将英语语法学习和美国文化语境结合起来。全套教材分为1、2、3三级,每级又分为两个分册,共有1A、1B、2A、2B、3A、3B等6个分册。1级和2级各有14课;3级有10课。每课内容,包括语法讲解和练习、阅读课文和扩展活动,都围绕美国社会的一个热门话题,构成一个语境。从语言学习角度,涉及一个语法点;从文化学习角度,涉及一个话题。二者巧妙结合。1级有学校生活、美国政府、美国节日、美国人及其住宅、家庭与姓名、美国人生活方式、婚礼、飞行、购物、营养与健康、伟大女性、美国地理、约会与婚姻、实习等14个话题。2级有宠物、老年生活、改善生活、婚礼、感恩节与印第安人、健康、移民、租房、上网搜索、找工作、交友、体育、法律、货币等14个话题。3级有工作、好莱坞、灾难与悲剧、消费者警告、肯尼迪家族、计算机与互联网、帮助他人、来到美国、关爱儿童、科学与科幻小说等10个话题。这些语境概括了美国社会的方方面面,是了解美国文化和在美国生存所必需的基本知识。这些语境有助于学习者掌握必需的文化背景知识,使他们懂得美国文化在语言、信仰和日常生活情景等方面的重要作用。

这是一套通过语境学习英语的好教材。使用这套教材,学习者不仅可以熟练掌握英语语法,运用英语语言;而且可以学习美国文化背景知识,在语境中学习英语,在语境中使用英语。希望学习者喜欢这套教材,并通过学习这套教材学好英语。

# Contents

## Lesson 1 1

GRAMMAR	The Simple Present Tense; Frequency Words	
CONTEXT	Pets and Other Animals	
READING	Americans and Their Pets	2
	1.1 <b>Be</b> —Forms and Uses	3
	1.2 Contractions with <b>Be</b>	5
READING	Dog Walkers	7
	1.3 Questions with <b>Be</b>	8
READING	Guide Dogs	14
	1.4 The Simple Present Tense—Affirmative Statements	15
	1.5 Negative Statements with the Simple Present Tense	17
READING	Search and Rescue Dogs	18
	1.6 Questions with the Simple Present Tense	19
	1.7 <b>Wh</b> - Questions with a Preposition	21
	1.8 Questions About Meaning, Spelling, and Cost	23
READING	Marianne and Sparky	26
	1.9 Simple Present Tense with Frequency Words	27
	1.10 Position of Frequency Words and Expressions	29
	1.11 Questions with <b>Ever</b>	31
	1.12 Questions with <b>How Often</b> and Answers with Frequency Expressions	32
	Summary of Lesson 1	33
	Editing Advice	33
	Lesson 1 Test/Review	36
	Expansion Activities	39

## Lesson 2 43

GRAMMAR	The Present Continuous Tense; Action and Nonaction Verbs; The Future Tense	
CONTEXT	Getting Older	
READING	Retirement Living	44
	2.1 Present Continuous Tense	46
READING	Life After Retirement	48
	2.2 Using the Present Continuous for Longer Actions	49
	2.3 Questions with the Present Continuous Tense	51
	2.4 Contrasting the Simple Present and the Present Continuous	56
	2.5 Action and Nonaction Verbs	59
READING	The Graying of America	64
	2.6 The Future Tense with <i>Will</i>	66
	2.7 The Future Tense with <i>Be Going To</i>	69
	2.8 <i>Will</i> vs. <i>Be Going To</i>	72
	2.9 Future Tense + Time / <i>If</i> Clause	75
	Summary of Lesson 2	79
	Editing Advice	80
	Lesson 2 Test/Review	81
	Expansion Activities	85

## Lesson 3 87

GRAMMAR	Habitual Past with <i>Used To</i> ; The Simple Past Tense	
CONTEXT	Working Towards a Better Life	
READING	Equal Rights for All	88
	3.1 Habitual Past with <i>Used To</i>	90
READING	George Dawson—Life Is So Good	92
	3.2 Past Tense of <i>Be</i>	94
	3.3 The Simple Past Tense of Regular Verbs	96
	3.4 The Simple Past Tense of Irregular Verbs	98
	3.5 Negative Statements	101
	3.6 Questions with the Simple Past Tense	103
	Summary of Lesson 3	106
	Editing Advice	106
	Lesson 3 Test/Review	108
	Expansion Activities	111

## Lesson 4 115

GRAMMAR	Possessive Forms; Object Pronouns; Reflexive Pronouns; Questions	
CONTEXT	Weddings	
READING	A Traditional American Wedding	116
	4.1 Possessive Forms of Nouns	117
	4.2 Possessive Adjectives	119
	4.3 Possessive Pronouns	120
	4.4 Questions with <i>Whose</i>	123
	4.5 Object Pronouns	124
READING	New Wedding Trends	126
	4.6 Direct and Indirect Objects	127
	4.7 <i>Say</i> and <i>Tell</i>	128
READING	Economizing on a Wedding	129
	4.8 Reflexive Pronouns	131
READING	Questions and Answers About an American Wedding	133
	4.9 Questions About the Subject or Complement	135
	Summary of Lesson 4	140
	Editing Advice	141
	Lesson 4 Test/Review	143
	Expansion Activities	147

## Lesson 5 149

GRAMMAR	Singular and Plural; Count and Noncount Nouns; <i>There + Be</i> ; Quantity Words	
CONTEXT	Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, and American Indians	
READING	A Typical Thanksgiving	150
	5.1 Noun Plurals	151
	5.2 Using the Singular and Plural for Generalizations	154
	5.3 Special Cases of Singular and Plural	155
READING	The Origin of Thanksgiving	156
	5.4 Noncount Nouns	158
	5.5 Count and Noncount Nouns	159
READING	Recipe for Turkey Stuffing	161
	5.6 Quantities with Count and Noncount Nouns	162

READING	Taking the Land from the Native Americans	163
	5.7 <b><i>There</i></b> + a Form of <b><i>Be</i></b>	164
	5.8 Using <b><i>There</i></b>	165
READING	Navajo Code Talkers	166
	5.9 Quantity Expressions—An Overview	167
	5.10 <b><i>Some, Any, A, No</i></b>	169
	5.11 <b><i>A Lot Of, Much, Many</i></b>	171
	5.12 <b><i>A Lot Of</i></b> vs. <b><i>Too Much / Too Many</i></b>	172
	5.13 <b><i>A Few, Several, A Little</i></b>	174
	5.14 <b><i>A Few</i></b> vs. <b><i>Few</i></b> ; <b><i>A Little</i></b> vs. <b><i>Little</i></b>	175
	Summary of Lesson 5	179
	Editing Advice	180
	Lesson 5 Test/Review	181
	Expansion Activities	185

## Lesson 6 187

GRAMMAR	Adjectives; Noun Modifiers; Adverbs; <b><i>Too / Enough / Very / A Lot Of</i></b>	
CONTEXT	Health	
READING	Obesity: A National Problem	188
	6.1 Adjectives	190
	6.2 Noun Modifiers	192
READING	Obesity: The Solutions	194
	6.3 Adverbs of Manner	196
	6.4 Adjective vs. Adverb	198
READING	Sleep	200
	6.5 <b><i>Too</i></b> and <b><i>Enough</i></b>	201
	6.6 <b><i>Too</i></b> and <b><i>Very</i></b> and <b><i>A Lot Of</i></b>	203
	Summary of Lesson 6	204
	Editing Advice	205
	Lesson 6 Test/Review	206
	Expansion Activities	208

## Lesson 7 211

GRAMMAR	Time Words and Time Clauses; The Past Continuous Tense	
CONTEXT	Immigrants	
READING	Ellis Island	212
	7.1 <b><i>When, Until, While</i></b>	213
	7.2 <b><i>When</i></b> and <b><i>Whenever</i></b>	215

	7.3 Time Words	216
	7.4 The Past Continuous Tense—An Overview	218
READING	Albert Einstein—Immigrant from Germany	218
	7.5 The Past Continuous Tense—Forms	220
	7.6 The Past Continuous Tense—Uses	221
	7.7 <b>Was / Were Going To</b>	226
READING	Gloria Estefan—Cuban Immigrant	227
	7.8 Simple Past vs. Past Continuous with <b>When</b>	228
	7.9 Simple Past vs. Past Continuous	229
	7.10 Using the <b>-ing</b> Form After Time Words	230
	Summary of Lesson 7	231
	Editing Advice	232
	Lesson 7 Test/Review	232
	Expansion Activities	235

## Lesson 8 237

GRAMMAR	Modals; Related Expressions	
CONTEXT	Renting an Apartment	
	8.1 Modals and Related Expressions—An Overview	238
READING	An Apartment Lease	238
	8.2 Negatives with Modals	240
	8.3 Statements and Questions with Modals	241
	8.4 <b>Must, Have To, Have Got To</b>	242
	8.5 Obligation with <b>Must</b> or <b>Be Supposed To</b>	244
	8.6 <b>Can, May, Could</b> , and Alternate Expressions	246
READING	Tenants' Rights	249
	8.7 <b>Should; Had Better</b>	250
	8.8 Negatives of Modals	253
READING	The New Neighbors	258
	8.9 <b>Must</b> for Conclusions	259
	8.10 <b>Will</b> and <b>May / Might</b>	261
READING	At a Garage Sale	264
	8.11 Using Modals and Questions for Politeness	265
	Summary of Lesson 8	269
	Editing Advice	270
	Lesson 8 Test/Review	272
	Expansion Activities	274

## **Lesson 9     277**

GRAMMAR	The Present Perfect; The Present Perfect Continuous	
CONTEXT	Searching the Web	
	9.1 The Present Perfect Tense—An Overview	278
READING	Google	278
	9.2 The Past Participle	280
	9.3 Irregular Past Participle Forms of Verbs	281
	9.4 The Present Perfect—Contractions, Negatives	282
	9.5 Adding an Adverb	283
	9.6 The Present Perfect—Statements and Questions	284
	9.7 Continuation from Past to Present	285
	9.8 The Simple Present vs. the Present Perfect	288
	9.9 The Present Perfect vs. the Simple Past	290
	9.10 The Present Perfect Continuous—An Overview	292
READING	Genealogy	292
	9.11 The Present Perfect Continuous—Forms	293
	9.12 The Present Perfect Continuous—Statements and Questions	294
	9.13 The Present Perfect Continuous—Use	295
	9.14 The Present Perfect with Repetition from Past to Present	299
	9.15 The Simple Past vs. the Present Perfect with Repetition	301
	9.16 The Present Perfect with Indefinite Past Time	302
	9.17 Answering a Present Perfect Question	304
	Summary of Lesson 9	308
	Editing Advice	309
	Lesson 9 Test/Review	310
	Expansion Activities	313

## **Lesson 10     315**

GRAMMAR	Gerunds; Infinitives	
CONTEXT	Finding a Job	
	10.1 Gerunds—An Overview	316
READING	Finding a Job	316
	10.2 Gerund as Subject	318
	10.3 Gerund After Verb	320
	10.4 Gerund After Preposition	322
	10.5 Gerund in Adverbial Phrase	325
	10.6 Infinitives—An Overview	327
READING	Tips on Writing a Résumé	327
	10.7 Infinitive as Subject	329
	10.8 Infinitive After Adjective	331

	10.9 Infinitive After Verb	333
	10.10 Gerund or Infinitive After Verb	335
	10.11 Object Before Infinitive	336
	10.12 Infinitive to Show Purpose	338
READING	Rita's Story	339
	10.13 <i>Used To</i> vs. <i>Be Used To</i>	341
	Summary of Lesson 10	345
	Editing Advice	346
	Lesson 10 Test/Review	347
	Expansion Activities	350

## Lesson 11 353

GRAMMAR	Adjective Clauses	
CONTEXT	Making Connections—Old Friends and New	
	11.1 Adjective Clauses—An Overview	354
READING	Finding Old Friends	354
	11.2 Relative Pronoun as Subject	356
	11.3 Relative Pronoun as Object	358
	11.4 <i>Where</i> and <i>When</i>	362
	11.5 Formal vs. Informal	363
READING	Internet Matchmaking	364
	11.6 <i>Whose</i> + Noun	365
	Summary of Lesson 11	369
	Editing Advice	370
	Lesson 11 Test/Review	371
	Expansion Activities	373

## Lesson 12 375

GRAMMAR	Superlatives; Comparatives	
CONTEXT	Sports and Athletes	
	12.1 Superlatives and Comparatives—An Overview	376
READING	Michael Jordan	376
	12.2 The Superlative Form	378
	12.3 Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adjectives and Adverbs	379
	12.4 Superlatives and Word Order	384
READING	Americans' Attitude Toward Soccer	385
	12.5 Comparatives	386
	12.6 Comparatives and Word Order	388

READING	An Amazing Athlete	390
	12.7 <i>As... As</i>	391
	12.8 <i>As Many / Much... As</i>	393
	12.9 <i>The Same... As</i>	395
	12.10 Equality with Nouns or Adjectives	396
READING	Football and Soccer	397
	12.11 Similarity with <i>Like</i> and <i>Alike</i>	398
	12.12 <i>Be Like</i>	400
	12.13 Same or Different	401
	Summary of Lesson 12	404
	Editing Advice	405
	Lesson 12 Test/Review	406
	Expansion Activities	408

## Lesson 13 413

GRAMMAR	Passive Voice and Active Voice	
CONTEXT	The Law	
	13.1 The Passive Voice and the Active Voice—An Overview	414
READING	Jury Duty	414
	13.2 The Passive Voice	415
	13.3 Passive Voice—Form and Use	416
	13.4 Negatives and Questions with Passive Voice	421
READING	Unusual Lawsuits	422
	13.5 Choosing Active Voice or Passive Voice	424
	Summary of Lesson 13	429
	Editing Advice	431
	Lesson 13 Test/Review	431
	Expansion Activities	434

## Lesson 14 437

GRAMMAR	Articles; <i>Other / Another</i> ; Indefinite Pronouns	
CONTEXT	Money	
	14.1 Articles—An Overview	438
READING	Kids and Money	438
	14.2 The Indefinite Article—Classifying or Identifying the Subject	439
	14.3 The Indefinite Article—Introducing a Noun	440
	14.4 The Definite Article	443
	14.5 Making Generalizations	445
	14.6 General or Specific with Quantity Words	449

READING	Changing the American Dollar	451
	14.7 <i>Another</i> and <i>Other</i>	452
	14.8 More About <i>Another</i> and <i>Other</i>	453
READING	The High Cost of a College Education	456
	14.9 Definite and Indefinite Pronouns	458
	Summary of Lesson 14	462
	Editing Advice	463
	Lesson 14 Test/Review	464
	Expansion Activities	467

## Appendices

A.	Spelling and Pronunciation of Verbs	AP1
B.	Irregular Noun Plurals	AP4
C.	Spelling Rules for Adverbs Ending in <i>-ly</i>	AP5
D.	Metric Conversion Chart	AP6
E.	The Verb <i>Get</i>	AP8
F.	<i>Make</i> and <i>Do</i>	AP10
G.	Nouns That Can Be Both Count or Noncount	AP11
H.	Verbs and Adjectives Followed by a Preposition	AP12
I.	Direct and Indirect Objects	AP13
J.	Capitalization Rules	AP15
K.	Glossary of Grammatical Terms	AP15
L.	Special Uses of Articles	AP20
M.	Alphabetical List of Irregular Verb Forms	AP22
N.	Maps	
	The United States of America: Major Cities	AP25
	North America	AP26
	Index	I1
	Photo Credits	C1

## LESSON

# 1

### GRAMMAR

The Simple Present Tense  
Frequency Words

### CONTEXT: Pets and Other Animals

Americans and Their Pets  
Dog Walkers  
Guide Dogs  
Search and Rescue Dogs  
Marianne and Sparky



## AMERICANS AND THEIR PETS

Before You  
Read

1. Do you like animals?
2. Do you have a pet?



Read the following article. Pay special attention to the verb *be* and other verbs in the simple present tense.

### Did You Know?

The most common registered breed of dog in the U.S. is the Labrador retriever.



Most Americans **love** pets. About 64% of Americans **live** with one or more animals. About 36% of households **have** at least one dog. Three in ten households **own** at least one cat.

Americans **think** of their pets as part of the family. Seventy-nine percent of pet owners **give** their pets holiday or birthday presents. Thirty-three percent of pet owners **talk** to their pets on the phone or through the answering machine. Many pet owners **sleep** with their dogs or cats. Many people **travel** with their pets. (It **costs** about \$50 to fly with a pet.) Some hotels **allow** guests to bring their pets.

Americans **pay** a lot of money to keep pets. They **spend** \$12 billion a year in vet<sup>1</sup> bills and pet supplies. There **are** schools, toys, hotels, restaurants, clothes, perfumes, and cemeteries for pets. There **are** magazines for pet owners. There **are** hundreds of Web sites for pet owners.

Pets **are** a lot of fun. They **are** affectionate<sup>2</sup> too. People who **are** lonely **get** a lot of love from their animals. Medical research **shows** that contact with a dog or a cat can lower a person's blood pressure.

Pets **need** a lot of attention. Before you **buy** a pet, it **is** important to answer these questions:

- **Are** you patient?
- **Are** you home a lot?
- If you **have** children, **are** they responsible?
- **Are** pets allowed where you live?
- **Do** you **have** money for medical bills for your pet?

Unfortunately, some people **don't realize** that pets need a lot of care. Some people **see** a cute puppy or kitten, **buy** it, and later **abandon**<sup>3</sup> it because they **don't want** to take care of it. It **is** important to understand that a pet is a long-term responsibility.

<sup>1</sup> Vet is short for *veterinarian*. This is an animal doctor.

<sup>2</sup> *Affectionate* means loving.

<sup>3</sup> To *abandon* means to leave something. When people abandon a pet, they leave it on the street.