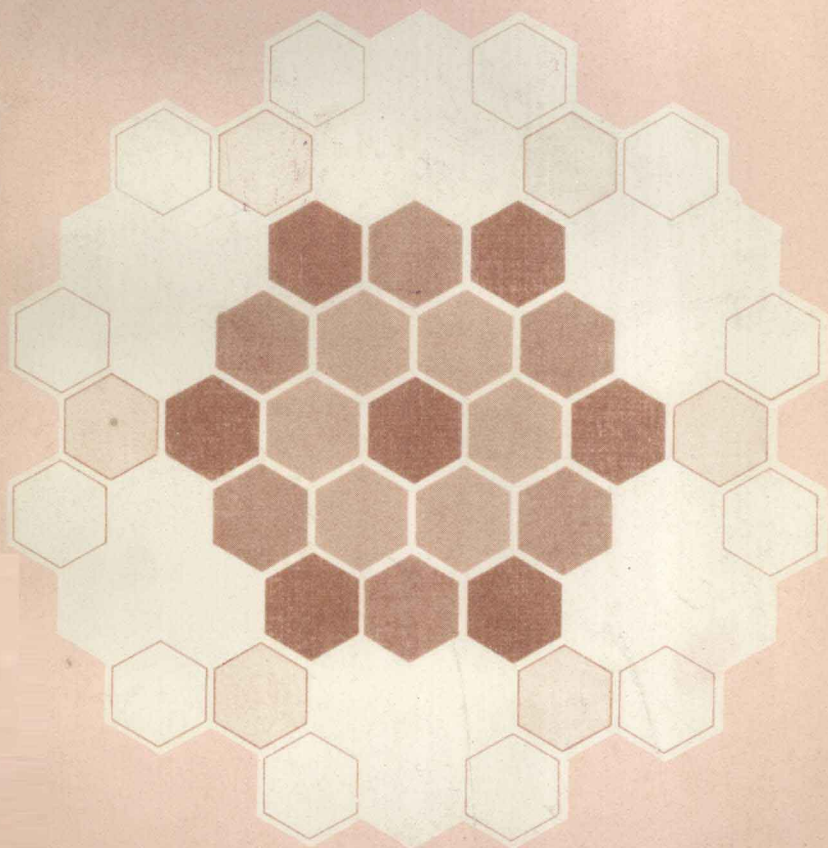


J Millington Ward

**Practice
in Structure
and Usage**



Practice
in
Structure and Usage
for
Intermediate Students

JOHN MILLINGTON WARD



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About this book

The aim of the book is to give practice in those points of English structure and usage which often prove difficult for students of English at the intermediate level. Many of the techniques used are similar to those employed in the Lower Cambridge Examination paper on structure and usage, and the book will therefore be particularly useful for candidates preparing for that examination. A selection of past papers is given in Appendix 1.

John Millington Ward

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Practice 1

[A] At each number in this passage, there is either a choice of four words or phrases, only one of which is correct, or an empty space which you should fill with one suitable word from your imagination. Say, in each of the 20 cases, which you think is the most suitable word or phrase.

EXAMPLE She *said/spoke/told/enquired* me about it.

ANSWER *told.*

EXAMPLE Let's go, shall we? The rain has ____.

ANSWER *stopped.*

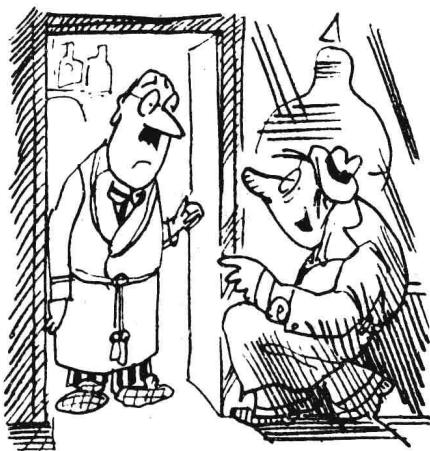
The chemist woke up, switched on the ____¹ that stood on the table ____² his bed, and looked at the clock. A quarter to four.

The knocking on the shop door downstairs was *repeating/repeated/used to repeat/used to being repeated*³.

The chemist ____⁴ out of bed. He *wore/put on/was wearing/would put on*⁵ his dressing-gown and slippers, and went heavily down to the shop. He unbolted and opened the door. In the street stood a man who was swaying slightly.

"What *do you like/do you want/are you wanting/are you liking*⁶?" said the chemist. "It's the middle of the night."

"Yes, it is, and I'm very sorry," said the man in the street. There was a strong smell of whisky *out of/on/amid/through* his breath. "But I need a bottle of ink very urgently."



I need a bottle of ink.

The chemist took a deep ____⁸. "This," he said, in a voice that was beginning to shake with anger, "is a chemist's, not a ____⁹."

"A chemist's?"

"Yes, a chemist's! And chemists do not sell ink!" shouted the chemist. He shouted with such force that a window opposite was opened abruptly and another angry voice shouted: "Why the hell don't you shut up and go to bed?"

"Chemists don't sell ink?" repeated the man in the street. "Never?"

"Never! In twenty-five years of running this shop I have never had any ink."

"Oh dear," said the other compassionately, "that's very bad. I'm very sorry to hear that. Twenty-five years ____¹⁰ any ink. That's awful."

"Go away!" shouted the chemist. "I've never heard anything like it in all my life, waking a chemist at this time of night to ask for ink! I've a good ____¹¹ to call the police and have you locked up." He slammed the door shut, pushed the bolt back into position, and stamped through the shop and up the stairs to his bedroom.

"Who was it, dear?" his wife asked sleepily. "What were you shouting about? You must have ____¹² all the neighbours up."

"It was a drunk asking for a bottle of ink," said the chemist, breathing heavily.

His wife laughed lightly into her pillow. "I thought you said a bottle of ink, dear."

"I ____¹³ say a bottle of ink," shouted the chemist, furious all under/over/above/through¹⁴ again. "And I don't find it funny!" He flung off his dressing-gown, kicked his slippers across the room and climbed back into bed, muttering beneath his ____¹⁵.

Half an hour later, his wife shook him. "George, wake up! There's someone knocking downstairs."

The chemist rose/raised/was rising/was raising¹⁶ his head from the pillow. "Oh, damn!" he said with great violence. "Who ____¹⁷ it be now? Half past four! Well, I'm not going down again. Let him knock, whoever he is. Why doesn't he go and find an all-night chemist's?"

"George," said his wife, "it might be something terribly ____¹⁸. Someone may be awfully ill. I do think you ought to go down and see, dear."

The chemist uttered a number of very bad words, swung his legs out of the bed, picked up his dressing-gown, and began to search for his slippers. When at last he found them, one under the wardrobe and the other behind the dressing-table, he made his way down to the shop again.

Outside in the street stood the man who had come before. "Hello again!" he said, smiling brightly. "I hope I didn't wake you up."

For a moment, the chemist was unable to speak. Then: "Look

here!" he shouted, *shook/being shaken/shaking/having shaken*¹⁹ all over with tremendous fury.

"I managed in *finding/to find/find/by finding*²⁰ the ink," interrupted the other. "And I remembered what you said. You haven't had any ink for twenty-five years." He took a small parcel from his pocket. "So I bought a bottle for you, too."

[B] These are the answers to five questions that could be asked about the passage in Question A. Can you say what these questions might be? For example: *Because his wife laughed lightly into her pillow* could be an answer to the question *Why was the chemist furious all over again, when he got back to the bedroom?*

- 1 From the smell of whisky on his breath and the fact that he was swaying.
- 2 Because the chemist shouted so loudly.
- 3 Because he had kicked them across the room.
- 4 One under the wardrobe and the other behind the dressing-table.
- 5 No. She stayed in bed.

[C] The blank spaces in these sentences can be filled by only one of the words or groups that are shown in italics beneath them. Which one?

- 1 If I had known that that film was on last week, I ____ it.
would see had seen would have seen might see
- 2 Your temperature has dropped, so you ____ take that antibiotic.
must not need not don't should not have
- 3 It was unkind of you to say that. You really ____ done so.
should not should not have need not must not
- 4 I do wish you ____ so much.
haven't smoked aren't smoking didn't smoke don't smoke
- 5 It's getting rather late. It's time we ____.
are going went go must go
- 6 As soon as Dick ____, tell him I want to see him.
will arrive is arriving arrives will have arrived
- 7 This is the third time we ____ this film.
have seen had seen used to see are seeing
- 8 We have lived here ever since we ____.
were married had married have married were marrying
- 9 No wonder those plants are dying. They ____ any water for ages!
haven't had haven't hadn't had hadn't
- 10 They ____ last week.
might arrive ought to arrive must arrive must have arrived

Practice 1

[D] Here we have five sentences with the verbs *pay*, *tell* and *ask*. Change these verbs into the verb *have*, and make whatever other changes are necessary.

EXAMPLE We must *pay* someone to clean these windows.

ANSWER We must *have these windows cleaned*.

- 1 I think we ought to tell someone to clear up this mess.
- 2 Shall we pay someone to prune these rosebushes?
- 3 I'm going to ask my dentist to take out this wretched tooth, once and for all.
- 4 Let's ask the hotel to send breakfast up to our room.
- 5 Robert paid a mechanic to service his car really well before he started on his long journey.

[E] Change the clauses that are in italics in these sentences into infinitive-phrases with either *too* or *enough*.

EXAMPLE It is so expensive *that we cannot buy it*.

ANSWER It is *too expensive for us to buy*.

EXAMPLE Tim is so rich *that he can buy whatever he wants*.

ANSWER Tim is *rich enough to buy whatever he wants*.

- 1 Let me help you. This is so heavy *that you cannot carry it alone*.
- 2 We don't need to take a taxi. The distance is so short *that we can walk there*.
- 3 I'm afraid that he is so obstinate *that he will not agree*.
- 4 No, I don't want to go there again in the summer months. It gets so hot *that I cannot sleep*.
- 5 I can read your thoughts so well *that I know what you are going to say*.
- 6 You mean to say he has paid for everybody? Well, I oughtn't to be surprised. He is so generous *that he could have done so very easily*.
- 7 No, I didn't go to their party. I was so busy *that I couldn't go out anywhere that week*.
- 8 I don't think it can have been Tom you saw. He is so careful a driver *that he couldn't have been driving quite as fast as that*.
- 9 Children, it's so warm *that you can sleep outside tonight*, if you want to.
- 10 Go and tell him the whole truth. He is so kind and understanding *that he could forgive you*.

[F] Put either *still* or *yet* into the blank spaces.

- 1 Is Father ____ asleep?
- 2 I'm afraid I haven't ____ finished that book you're waiting for.
- 3 Is that man ____ waiting to see me?
- 4 Isn't supper ready ____?
- 5 Nobody ____ knows whether it will be permitted or not. We are ____ waiting for the government to make its mind up.

[G] Form questions to which these ten sentences could be the answers. The information that is particularly required is shown by the words in italics. (Imagine that someone has spoken, but you did not hear these words. You are now asking what they were.)

EXAMPLE I saw *Jim's* car at the bottom of the street.

ANSWER *Whose car* do you see (at the bottom of the street)?

- 1 I saw Jim's car *at the bottom of the street*.
- 2 This gadget is for *peeling potatoes*.
- 3 They arrived *just before midnight*.
- 4 *That* hotel gave us the best service.
- 5 I'll wait for you for *five minutes*.
- 6 I'll wait for you for *five minutes*.
- 7 You'll have a rise *next January*.
- 8 *Susan's* friends came to stay with us at Easter.
- 9 You've been asleep *for twelve hours!*
- 10 I got my promotion *by telling the boss how beautiful his wife is*.

[H] Decide whether these blank spaces should be filled with *the* or *a (an)* or *no article at all*.

- 1 It's ____¹ unpleasantly hot weather, I agree. We should find ____² church to sit in for ____³ hour or two. ____⁴ churches are usually cool even in ____⁵ hottest weather.
- 2 How often does he go to ____¹ church? And how often to ____² cinema?
- 3 He told me ____¹ last week that he was in ____² prison camp for ____³ whole of ____⁴ last year of ____⁵ war in Korea.
- 4 I think this is ____¹ most attractive fashion. In fact, it's ____² most attractive we have had for ____³ good many years.
- 5 When Irene went up to ____¹ bed ____² last night, she saw ____³ mouse in ____⁴ middle of ____⁵ floor. She jumped straight up on ____⁶ bed. That's why ____⁷ springs are broken.

Practice 1

- 6 It's not quite ____¹ thing, Jimmy, to eat spaghetti with your fingers!
- 7 ____¹ sooner we finish ____² wretched job ____³ sooner we can go down to ____⁴ sea for ____⁵ bathe.
- 8 It's unwise to leave ____¹ matches where ____² young children can get at them.
- 9 It's ____¹ terrible thing that ____² drug addiction is increasing among ____³ teenagers.
- 10 ____¹ drug addiction among ____² teenagers of ____³ United States has reached ____⁴ terrifying level.

[1] Can you complete these idiomatic comparisons?

EXAMPLE as ____ as a judge ANSWER *sober*
as quick as a ____ *flash*

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 as deaf as a ____ | 11 as ____ as a lion |
| 2 as fresh as a ____ | 12 as ____ as a whistle |
| 3 as hot as ____ | 13 as ____ as ice |
| 4 as hungry as a ____ | 14 as ____ as a berry |
| 5 as light as a ____ | 15 as ____ as a hatter |
| 6 as mischievous as a ____ | 16 as ____ as a picture |
| 7 as obstinate as a ____ | 17 as ____ as a peacock |
| 8 as old as the ____ | 18 as ____ as an eel |
| 9 as quiet as a ____ | 19 as ____ as a bell |
| 10 as sweet as ____ | 20 as ____ as an ox |

[J] Each word in the left-hand column rhymes with one, and only one, word in the right-hand column. Which rhymes with which?

1 bear	21 beard
2 blue	22 blunder
3 bomb	23 chatter
4 colonel	24 crew
5 cord	25 hair
6 curse	26 hear
7 dear	27 heat
8 fatter	28 hotter
9 feet	29 journal
10 final	30 monkey
11 fort	31 net
12 flunkey	32 ought
13 heard	33 purred
14 sweat	34 so
15 swatter	35 spinal
16 tomb	36 sword
17 wander	37 Tom
18 weird	38 womb
19 woe	39 worse
20 wonder	40 yonder

Practice 2

[A] The blank spaces in this passage can be filled by *one or two or three (but not four)* of the words and phrases that follow in parentheses. Say which can correctly fill the spaces.

We ____¹ (*made/got/reached at/arrived at*) Kagela ____² (*by/at/in/on*) noon that day, parked the hunting car beneath a candelabra tree, and got the boys on to pitching camp. "I ____³ (*am always camping/have always camped/had always camped/always camp*) here," Benny ____⁴ (*said/spoke/informed/told*) me, "____⁵ (*since/as/because/through*) there's a pool of water there." He pointed to a small clump of trees that were growing ____⁶ (*up/out of/from/in*) the sand of the desert. We were searching for copper, and Benny had found, or thought he ____⁷ (*had/did/found/had found*) a rich field of it. We had come to have another ____⁸ (*look/watch/glance/stare*).

Going down to get water, we found a lioness ____⁹ (*upon/on/by/beside*) the still, clear pool. She ____¹⁰ (*was dying/died/might die/might be dying*) even then.

Benny raised his rifle, working the bolt smoothly, easily. "Don't ____¹¹ (*make/perform/act/do*) it," I ____¹² (*said/spoke/informed/told*).

"Why not?" said Benny. "She ____¹³ (*won't/can't/couldn't/hasn't to*) live for much longer. She's almost finished. By sun-up she'll be ____¹⁴ (*as so/more/very*) dead as Queen Anne's cat."

"I ____¹⁵ (*am knowing/know/have known/knew*)." I didn't really understand why I ____¹⁶ (*would like/would have liked/wanted/wished*) to spare the lioness. She was on her side, her ribs showing under her skin. One of her legs had been torn by a large wound. We walked towards her, rifles up, and she ____¹⁷ (*raised/rose/lifted/was raising*) her head and snarled in her throat. Hatred and yellow fire flashed ____¹⁸ (*since/for/from/by*) a second from her eyes, then the wound tore, and she ____¹⁹ (*laid/lie/lay/lie*) silent, waiting for her death.

"I ____²⁰ (*propose/intend/had better/am going*) to shoot a zebra and feed her," I said.

(From Pick of Today's Short Stories, *The Lioness*, by Alastair Scobie, published by Putnam)

[B] These are the answers to five questions that might be asked about the passage in Question A. Can you say what these questions might be?

1 Because we wanted it to stand in some shade.

- 2 Because she was already dying and he wanted to save her from further suffering.
- 3 Perhaps in a fight with an elephant.
- 4 Because she knew she was too weak to do anything else.
- 5 Because I wanted to give her a chance to live.

[C] Put these sentences into their passive-voice equivalents.

- 1 They are bringing your car now, sir.
- 2 Didn't they tell you about it?
- 3 We have had to throw it away.
- 4 Has everybody understood this?
- 5 We really must mend this chair!

[D] The words listed below are names of parts of the body. Use one of them as a *verb* (in a suitable tense or form) in each of the sentences that follow.

back elbow eye finger foot
head mouth shoulder stomach thumb

- 1 Mary covered her eyes as the body was put into the ambulance. She couldn't ____ the sight of so much blood.
- 2 The President of the United States ____ a great responsibility.
- 3 Your brother's name ____ the list of successful candidates.
- 4 The policeman ____ the youth suspiciously.
- 5 He wasn't singing the hymn: he was just ____ the words.
- 6 The people in the queue tried to ____ their way on to the bus.
- 7 She ____ through her diary to find the telephone number she had written.
- 8 All right, I'll make the complaint, but you must ____ me up, you know.
- 9 Try not to ____ your collar, Tom. You'll soil it with those hands.
- 10 The landlord, not the tenant, will have to ____ the bill for this repair.

[E] Replace the relative clauses in these sentences by infinitive phrases.

EXAMPLE There's a tree over there *under which we can sit*.

ANSWER There's a tree over there *to sit under*.

- 1 I want a strong box *into which I can put all these books*.
- 2 Can I borrow a cloth *with which I may dust my shoes*?

Practice 2

- 3 We want an open fireplace *in front of which we can sit*.
- 4 Let's buy a detailed map *from which we can plan our trip*.
- 5 That is a new type of swatter *with which you can kill flies*.

[F] Put either the verb *make* or the verb *do*, in their appropriate tenses or forms, into the blank spaces below.

- 1 Have you ____ the jobs I asked you to do?
- 2 Twelve times twelve ____ a hundred and forty-four, and twelve plus twelve ____ twenty-four.
- 3 I agree that Aunt Mary ____ lovely cakes but she also ____ such a mess of the kitchen that I'd rather ____ without the cakes.



*Aunt Mary's cakes are
very good.*

- 4 This material is ____ of a mixture of polyester and cotton.
- 5 All this work was ____ by hand.
- 6 Mary, have you ____ the washing-up yet? I've ____ the beds myself.
- 7 Go and spend a week in the mountains. It'll ____ you the world of good.
- 8 Go and spend a week in the mountains. It'll ____ you understand how peaceful life can be.
- 9 Fruit ____ you good.
- 10 This medicine is awful, but it'll ____ you well again.

[G] What differences of meaning are given by the five different endings to this sentence?

To give the drug-pusher* a punishment he would never forget,

- (1) she had him tied to a tree and whipped.
- (2) she had him tied to a tree and whipped him.
- (3) she tied him to a tree and had him whipped.
- (4) she tied him to a tree and whipped him.
- (5) she had tied him to a tree and whipped him.

[H] The blank spaces in these sentences can be filled with either *off*, *over* or *up*. Say which.

- 1 I've never had any lessons, you know. The little English I know I've picked ____ on my own.
- 2 The Prime Minister went to the airport to see the Queen ____.
- 3 Jack was held ____ and robbed on his way home last night.
- 4 We haven't time to discuss this point today. Let's hold it ____ until our next meeting.
- 5 We took a great gamble, but fortunately it came ____.
- 6 Class attendances tend to drop ____ when spring arrives, but they pick ____ after a few weeks.
- 7 The company has been taken ____ by its creditors.
- 8 I can't give you my answer at once. I must think the matter ____.
- 9 We ought to set ____ very early tomorrow.
- 10 Here's an invitation to a fancy-dress party. Good, I love dressing ____ for that sort of party!

[I] Here are 20 words arranged in alphabetical order. Rearrange them as five groups of nouns, bringing together those which are similar or related in meaning. Each group will have four nouns.

An example of such a four-word group is:

accident calamity disaster misfortune

annoyance	independence	proposal	resentment
displeasure	indignation	proposition	revolt
figure	liberty	rebellion	shape
form	outbreak	recommendation	strike
freedom	outline	release	suggestion

* A person who persuades young people to begin taking drugs, so that he can sell the drugs at high prices to them when they become addicts.