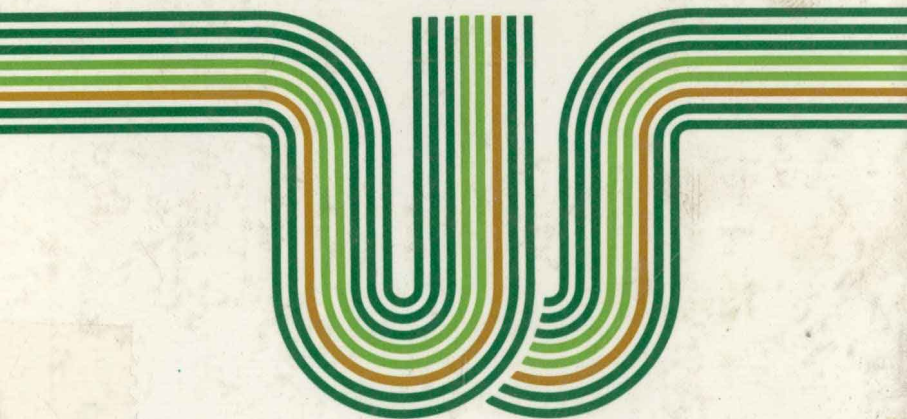


Warriner's English Grammar and Composition

THIRD COURSE



English Grammar and Composition

HERITAGE EDITION

THIRD COURSE

John E. Warriner
Mary E. Whitten
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John E. Warriner taught English for thirty-two years in junior and senior high schools and in college. He is chief author of the *English Grammar and Composition* series, coauthor of the *English Workshop* series, and general editor of the *Composition: Models and Exercises* series. His coauthors are all active in English education.

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To the Student

The title of this textbook is *English Grammar and Composition*. Let's consider briefly the meaning of the two words *grammar* and *composition*.

Grammar is a description of the way a language works. It explains many things. For example, grammar tells us the order in which sentence parts must be arranged. It explains the work done by the various kinds of words—the work done by a noun is different from the work done by a verb. It explains how words change their form according to the way they are used. Grammar is useful because it enables us to make statements about how to use our language. These statements we usually call rules.

The grammar rule that the normal order of an English sentence is subject-verb-object may not seem very important to us, because English is our native tongue and we naturally use this order without thinking. But the rule would be very helpful to people who are learning English as a second language. However, the rule that subjects and verbs “agree” (when the subject is plural, the verb is plural), and the rule that some pronouns (I, he, she, we, they) are used as subjects while others (me, him, her, us, them) are used as objects—these are helpful rules even for native speakers of English.

Such rules could not be understood—in fact, they could not be formed—without the vocabulary of grammar. Grammar, then, helps us to state how English is used and how we should use it.

The word *composition* means “putting together.” When you speak and write, you are putting words together to express your ideas. You compose sentences in this way, and you compose essays and stories by grouping sentences.

Much in this book will help you to speak better, but the book's primary purpose is to help you to write better. Unlike speaking, which you learned even before you went

to school, writing is something that you learned only in school, where you first encountered the need for it. To learn how to write, you must study and practice. Written sentences must be more carefully composed than spoken ones. Writing requires more careful organization than speaking. You are not aware of paragraphs and paragraph structure when you talk, but you must understand the structure of a paragraph if you are to write clearly. Writing requires other skills—punctuation, capitalization, and spelling, for example.

With the aid of the grammar explained in this book, the rules of composition, and the practice exercises provided, you will be able to improve your English.

J.W.

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Grammar

PART ONE

The Parts of Speech

The Work That Words Do

As you speak or write, you express your thoughts in words. Sometimes you may use only one word, such as *Quiet!* or *Hello*. Usually, however, you use groups of words that make statements, ask questions, or give instructions or directions. Every word you speak or write has a definite use in expressing a thought or idea. The way the word is used determines what *part of speech* that word is. There are eight parts of speech:

nouns	verbs	conjunctions
pronouns	adverbs	interjections
adjectives	prepositions	

As you study this chapter, learn to recognize the parts of speech, the eight ways that words work for you as you communicate your thoughts and ideas to others.

THE NOUN

Perhaps the words most frequently used are those by which we identify someone or something. These labels, or name words, are called *nouns*.

1a. A *noun* is a word used to name a person, place, thing, or idea.

<i>Persons</i>	Celia, Mr. Tompkins, fire fighter, women, Americans
<i>Places</i>	Chicago, Alaska, Europe, Bryant Park, kitchen, suburbs
<i>Things</i>	money, poem, pencils, airplanes, merry-go-round
<i>Ideas</i>	perfection, strength, happiness, obedience, liberty

EXERCISE 1. Copy each of the following words on your paper. After each, tell whether it names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea. If the word does not name, write *not a noun*.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. novelist | 8. silly | 15. Midwest |
| 2. biscuits | 9. Canadians | 16. advertise |
| 3. sharpen | 10. patriotism | 17. supposedly |
| 4. sharpener | 11. believe | 18. faith |
| 5. gratitude | 12. belief | 19. Santa Claus |
| 6. gratify | 13. across | 20. joy |
| 7. loses | 14. for | |

Common and Proper Nouns

There are two classes of nouns, *proper nouns* and *common nouns*. A proper noun names a particular person, place, or thing, and is always capitalized. A common noun names any one of a group of persons, places, or things, and is not capitalized.

COMMON NOUNS

PROPER NOUNS

inventor	Thomas A. Edison, Sarah Boone
woman	Pearl Bailey, Hannah Arendt, Dr. Alvarez, Maria Tallchief
city	Boston, Des Moines, Salt Lake City

school	Lincoln High School, Harvard University
state	Georgia, Tennessee, Utah, Pennsylvania
river	Mississippi River, Colorado River
month	January, April, August, November

EXERCISE 2. There are fifty nouns in the following paragraph. As you list the nouns on your paper, circle all the proper nouns. A name is counted as one noun, even if it has more than one part.

1. In our living language, proper nouns occasionally change to common nouns. 2. Losing significance as names of particular people, these words become names for a general class of things. 3. For example, during the nineteenth century, Samuel A. Maverick was unique among ranchers in Texas. 4. Maverick did not regularly brand his calves. 5. Therefore, cattlemen on neighboring ranches began to call any unbranded, stray yearling a "Maverick." 6. For these cattlemen, a *maverick* soon became a common name for a certain kind of calf, and now *maverick* is standard English for any unbranded animal or motherless calf. 7. Many other words have similar origins. 8. The term *pasteurization* is derived from Louis Pasteur, and *mesmerism* comes from F. A. Mesmer. 9. From John L. McAdam, a Scottish engineer, comes the word *macadam*, referring to a pavement made of crushed stones. 10. Once used exclusively as names of particular people, *silhouette*, *macintosh*, and *watt* have undergone similar changes and no longer begin with capital letters.

EXERCISE 3. Study the nouns listed below. In class, be prepared to (1) identify each noun as a common or a proper noun, and (2) if the noun is a common noun, name a corresponding proper noun; if the noun is proper, name a corresponding common noun. Remem-

ber that capitalization is one of the signals of a proper noun.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. girl | 6. town | 11. college | 16. holiday |
| 2. day | 7. lake | 12. church | 17. teacher |
| 3. Iowa | 8. actor | 13. Italy | 18. Memphis |
| 4. sea | 9. queen | 14. Broadway | 19. language |
| 5. Woolf | 10. song | 15. Aunt Jo | 20. islands |

Compound Nouns

By now, you have probably noticed that two or more words may be used together as a single noun. In the examples below rule 1a on page 4, you find *fire fighter* and *Mr. Tompkins* in the list of persons, *Bryant Park* in the list of places, and *merry-go-round* in the list of things. These word groups are called *compound nouns*.

As you see, the parts of a compound noun may be written as one word, as two or more words, or may be hyphenated. Here are some other commonly used compound nouns.

EXAMPLES housekeeper, basketball, drugstore, schoolteacher, commander in chief, tennis ball, home economics, father-in-law, baby-sitter, great-grandmother

If you are in doubt as to how to write a compound noun, you should consult your dictionary. Some dictionaries may give two correct forms for a word; for example, you may find *vice-president* written both with and without the hyphen. As a rule, it is wise to use the form the dictionary gives first.

THE PRONOUN

1b. A *pronoun* is a word used in place of one or more nouns.