# A GRAMMAR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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#### ГРАММАТИКА АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

пособие для студентов педагогических институтов

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Сдано в набор 25/VI 1959 г. Подписано к печати 15/X 1959 г. М-05612. Формат бумаги  $60 \times 92^1/_{16}$ . Печ. л. 20,0. Уч.-изд. л. 21,82. Тираж 24 000 экз. Цена без переплета 4 р. 35 к. Переплет бумажный 80 к.

Ленинградское отделение Учпедгиза. Ленинград, Невский пр., 28. Заказ № 1417.

Ленинградский Совет народного хозяйства. Управление полиграфической промышленности. Типография № 1 «Печатный Двор» имени А. М. Горького. Ленинград, Гатчинская, 26. В. Л. КАУШАНСКАЯ, Р. Л. КОВНЕР, О. Н. КОЖЕВНИКОВА, Е. В. ПРОКОФЬЕВА, З. М. РАЙНЕС, С. Е. СКВИРСКАЯ, Ф. Я. ЦЫРЛИНА

### ГРАММАТИКА АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

ПОСОБИЕ ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ ПЕДАГОГИЧЕСКИХ ИНСТИТУТОВ

Под редакцией проф. Б. А. Ильиша

ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ УЧЕБНО-ПЕДАГОГИЧЕСКОЕ ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО МИНИСТЕРСТВА ПРОСВЕЩЕНИЯ РСФСР ЛЕНИНГРАДСКОЕ ОТДЕЛЕНИЕ

Ленинград • 1959

#### FOREWORD

The object of this book is to give a course of English grammar for students specializing in the English language.

The book includes Accidence, i. e. the parts of speech and morphological categories, and Syntax, i. e. the sentence and the parts of the sentence. The rules are illustrated by examples taken from English and American authors of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The material of the book has been used for many years in teaching students of the 1st Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, Leningrad (now the Department of Foreign Languages of Leningrad University), and has thus been put to the test of practical work. In preparing the material for print the authors have considerably enlarged it.

As far as is possible in a practical grammar, this book is founded on the latest results of Soviet linguistic investigation: some phenomena have been given a new interpretation, e. g. the subjunctive mood, certain problems connected with the use of tenses, with the simple sentence, etc.

Exercises on all topics treated in the manual are published in a separate issue, arranged in accordance with the chapters of the present book.

The authors wish to acknowledge their obligations to the teachers of the Department of Foreign Languages and the Philological Department of Leningrad University, as well as to the teachers of the Hertzen Pedagogical Institute, who have reviewed the book and made a number of valuable suggestions.

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#### INTRODUCTION

#### GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

§ 1. Languages may be synthetic and analytical according to

their grammatical structure.

In synthetic languages, such as for instance Russian, the grammatical relations between words are expressed by means of inflections: e. g., крыша дома.

In analytical languages, such as English, the grammatical relations between words are expressed by means of form words and

word order: e. g., the roof of the house.

§ 2. Analytical forms are mostly proper to verbs. An analytical verb-form consists of one or more form words, which have no lexical meaning and only express one or more of the grammatical categories of person, number, tense, aspect, voice, mood, and one notional word, generally an infinitive or a participle: e. g., He has come, I am reading.

The analytical forms are:

(1) Tense and Aspect verb-forms (the Continuous form: *I am writing*, the Perfect form: *I have written*, the Perfect Continuous form: *I have been writing*, the Future Indefinite: *I shall write*, all the other forms of the Future; also the interrogative and the negative forms of the Present and Past Indefinite: *Does he sing? He does not sing*).

(2) The Passive Voice: I was invited to the theatre.

(3) The analytical form of the Subjunctive Mood: I should go there if I had time.

In all these analytical forms the form word is an auxiliary verb. (For detailed treatment see chapters on the verb.)

§ 3. However, the structure of a language is never purely synthetic or purely analytical. Accordingly in the English language there are:

(1) Endings:

-s in the third person singular in the Present Indefinite: speaks;

-s in the plural of nouns: tables;

-s in the genitive case: my brother's book;

-ed in the Past Indefinite of regular verbs: smoked.

(2) Inner flexions: man — men; speak — spoke.

- (3) The synthetic forms of the Subjunctive Mood: were, be, have, etc.
- § 4. Owing to the scarcity of synthetic forms the order of words, which is fixed in English, acquires extreme importance: The fisherman caught a fish.

A deviation from the general principle of word order is pos-

sible only in special cases.

(For detailed treatment see Chapter XVI, Word Order.)

§ 5. One of the marked features of the English language is the extensive use of substitutes. A word substitute saves the repetition of a word in certain conditions. Here belong *one*, that, do.

One replaces class nouns in the singular and in the plural.

Thanks for the compliment, if it is one. The hours he spent with Ruth were the only happy ones he had, and they were not all happy. (London)

That generally substitutes nouns, especially abstract nouns and nouns of material followed by an attribute, mostly introduced by the preposition of.

He (Martin) watched the easy walk of the other in front of him, and for the first time realized that his walk was different from that of other men. (London)

Almost every day thereafter Mrs. Skelton would go for a ride in her own car or that of Castleman. (Dreiser)

Do substitutes verbs.

You know your law better than I do. (Galsworthy)
Forgive me for speaking with brutal frankness, I only do so because I care. (Alexander)

## Part I ACCIDENCE

#### GENERAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE PARTS OF SPEECH

According to their meaning, morphological characteristics and syntactical functions, words fall under certain classes called parts of speech.

We distinguish between notional and structural parts of speech. The notional parts of speech perform independent functions in the sentence: the functions of subject, predicate, attribute, object, or adverbial modifier.

The notional parts of speech are:

- (1) the noun;
- (2) the adjective;
- (3) the pronoun;
- (4) the numeral;
- (5) the verb;
- (6) the adverb;
- (7) the words of the category of state;
- (8) the modal words; (9) the interjection.

The structural parts of speech either express relations between words or sentences or emphasize the meaning of words or sentences. They never perform any independent function in the sentence. Here belong:

- (1) the preposition;
- (2) the conjunction;
- (3) the particle;
- (4) the article.

#### CHAPTER I

#### THE NOUN

§ 1. The noun is a word expressing substance in the widest sense of the word.

In the concept of substance we include not only names of living beings (e. g., boy, girl, bird) and lifeless things (e. g., table, chair, book), but also names of abstract notions, i. e. qualities, states, actions (kindness, strength, conversation, fight, sleep, fear), abstracted from their bearers.

§ 2. The noun has the following morphological characteristics:
(1) Nouns that can be counted have two numbers: singular and

(1) Nouns that can be counted have **two numbers**: singular and

plural (e. g., singular: a girl, plural: girls).

(2) Nouns denoting living beings (and some nouns denoting lifeless things) have **two case forms**: the common case and the genitive case.

It is doubtful whether the grammatical category of **gender** exists in Modern English for it is hardly ever expressed by means of

grammatical forms.

There is practically only one gender-forming suffix in Modern English, the suffix -ess, expressing feminine gender. It is not widely used.

heir — heir-ess poet — poet-ess actor — actr-ess waiter — waitr-ess host — host-ess lion — lion-ess tiger — tigr-ess <sup>1</sup>

¹ Gender, i. e. the distinction of nouns into masculine, feminine and neuter, may be expressed lexically by means of different words or word-compounds:

father — mother cock-sparrow — hen-sparrow boy — girl man-servant — maid-servant

§ 3. The noun has certain syntactical characteristics.

The chief syntactical functions of the noun in the sentence are those of the **subject** and the **object**. But it may also be used as an **attribute** or a **predicative**.

The sun was rising in all his splendid beauty. (Dickens) (SUBJECT) Troy and Yates followed the tourists. (Heym) (OBJECT)

He is an army man. (Heym) (PREDICATIVE)

Mary brought in the fruit on a tray and with it a glass bowl, and a blue dish... (Mansfield) (ATTRIBUTE; the noun glass is used in the common case)

The hero and heroine, of course, just arrived from his father's yacht. (Mansfield) (ATTRIBUTE; the noun father is used in the genitive case)

A noun preceded by a preposition (a prepositional phrase) may be used as attribute, prepositional indirect object, and adverbial modifier:

To the left were clean panes of glass. (Ch. Brontë) (ATTRIBUTE) Bicket did not answer, his throat felt too dry. He had heard of the police. (Galsworthy) (OBJECT)

She went into the drawing-room and lighted the fire. (Mansfield)

(ADVERBIAL MODIFIER)

"Stop everything, Laura!" cried Jose in astonishment. (Mansfield)
(ADVERBIAL MODIFIER)

The noun is generally associated with the article. Because of the comparative scarcity of morphological distinctions in English in some cases only articles show that the word is a noun.

A noun can be modified by an adjective, a pronoun, by another

noun or by verbals.

§ 4. Morphological composition of nouns.

According to their morphological composition we distinguish

simple, derivative and compound nouns.

(1) **Simple** nouns are nouns which have neither prefixes nor suffixes. They are indecomposable: *chair*, *table*, *room*, *map*, *fish*, *work*.

(2) **Derivative** nouns are nouns which have derivative elements (prefixes or suffixes or both): reader, sailor, blackness, childhood, misconduct, inexperience.

Productive noun-forming suffixes are:

man — woman boy-friend — girl-friend husband — wife

Very often personal or possessive pronouns indicate the gender of the noun. (See *The Pronoun.*)