



BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR

for English Language Learners

Book
1

Younger students at beginning to intermediate levels will greatly benefit from this step-by-step approach to English grammar basics. This is the ideal supplement to your language arts program whether your students are native English speakers or beginning English language learners. Specific lessons make it easy to locate and prescribe instant reinforcement or intervention.

- Illustrated lessons are tightly focused on core concepts of grammar
- Nearly 70 practice exercises are included for ready reinforcement
- A wealth of examples are provided on every topic
- Concise explanations are bolstered by extra grammar tips and useful language notes



BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR Book 1



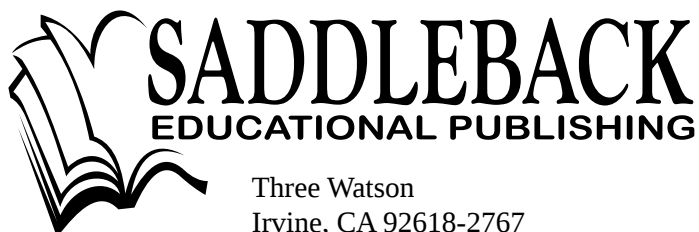
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Book
1

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for English Language Learners



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3

Nouns

Common Nouns

Nouns are divided into **common nouns** and **proper nouns**. **Common nouns** are words for people, animals, places, or things.

These are words for people. They are common nouns.



artist

Word File

Here are more words for people:

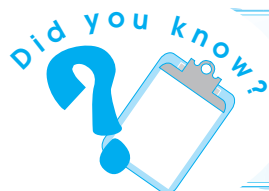
actor	lawyer
aunt	judge
baby	man
baker	nurse
cook	police officer
dentist	singer
doctor	soldier
giant	teacher



clown

acrobat

astronaut



Another word for **astronaut** is **spaceman** or **spacewoman**.



Some plural nouns end in **-ies**.

butterflies



butterfly

canaries



canary

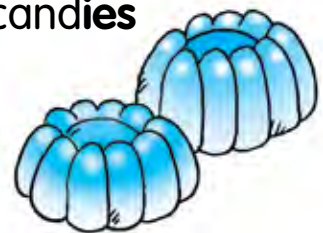


lilies



lily

candies



candy



Word File

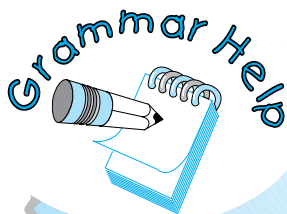
Singular

baby
cherry
diary
dictionary
fairy
family
fly
lady
library
puppy
story
strawberry

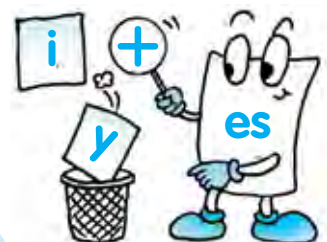
Plural

babies
cherries
diaries
dictionaries
fairies
families
flies
ladies
libraries
puppies
stories
strawberries

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Nouns like these are made plural by changing **y** to **i**, and adding **-es**.



Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct *masculine* or *feminine* nouns.

Masculine

Feminine

- | | | |
|----|---------|---------|
| 1 | master | _____ |
| 2 | uncle | _____ |
| 3 | _____ | niece |
| 4 | _____ | lioness |
| 5 | tiger | _____ |
| 6 | _____ | empress |
| 7 | husband | _____ |
| 8 | son | _____ |
| 9 | _____ | mother |
| 10 | _____ | madam |

Exercise 2

Fill in each blank with a suitable *masculine* or *feminine* noun.

- 1 The host and the _____ welcomed their guests.
- 2 The steward and the _____ look after the passengers on the plane.
- 3 My uncle and _____ lived in Nebraska.
- 4 The king and the _____ had two children, a boy and a _____. The prince was eight and the _____ was five.
- 5 Ladies and _____, welcome to our party this evening.

The words **me**, **you**, **him**, **her**, **it**, **us** and **them** are also personal pronouns. They also take the place of nouns. These pronouns are used as the **object** of the verb in a sentence.

I am standing on my head. Look at **me**.

My mother is kind. Everybody likes **her**.

Lisa, I told **you** to tidy your bed!

Sharon and Jenny! Dad is waiting for **you**!

Lucky and I are playing in the park. Dad is watching **us**.

You must not play with **the knife**. Give **it** to **me**.

Pick up **your toys** and put **them** away.



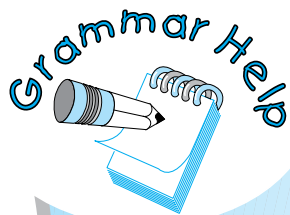
Baby birds cannot fly.
Mother bird has to feed **them**.



Tom likes riding **my bicycle**.
I sometimes lend **it** to **him**.



The **object** of a sentence is the person, animal, place or thing that receives the action shown by the verb.



There are three groups of pronouns: **first person**, **second person** and **third person**.

The **person speaking** is called the **first person**.

The first-person pronouns are **I** or **me** (in the singular) and **we** or **us** (in the plural).

The **person spoken to** is called the **second person**. The second-person pronoun is **you** (in both singular and plural).

The **person (or animal, or thing) spoken about** is called the **third person**. The third-person pronouns are **he** or **him**, **she** or **her**, and **it** (in the singular), and **they** or **them** (in the plural).

The word **I** is always spelled with a capital letter.

The pronoun **he** is used for men and boys, **she** for women and girls, and **it** for things and animals.

Here is a table to help you.

	Subject	Object
First person singular	I	me
Second person singular	you	you
Third person singular	he	him
	she	her
	it	it
First person plural	we	us
Second person plural	you	you
Third person plural	they	them

Demonstrative Pronouns

The words **this**, **these**, **that** and **those** are called **demonstrative pronouns**. They are showing words.



Those are goats.

These are sheep.

This is my house.

This is a hill.

These are donkeys.

What is **this**?

Did you drop **this**?

Hi, Jane! **This** is Michael!

That is John's house.

That is a mountain.

Those are horses.

What are **those**?

We can do better than **that**.

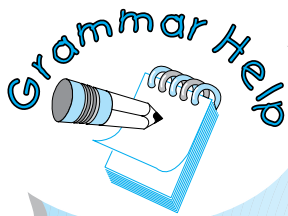
No, **that's** not mine.

You mean you won?

That's amazing!

Hello, who is **that** speaking, please?

Hello, is **that** you, George?



You use **this** and **these** when you point to things **near** you.

You use **that** and **those** when you point to things **farther away**.

Demonstrative pronouns can be singular or plural:

Singular

this

that

Plural

these

those

Exercise 1

Draw a line to join each of the *subject pronouns* to the *object pronoun* that matches.

I he it she they you we

us her you them me him it

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct pronouns.

- 1 Peter and I are brothers. _____ share a bedroom together.
- 2 Sue isn't well. Dad is taking _____ to see a doctor.
- 3 My brother is a teacher. _____ teaches English.
- 4 All his students like _____ very much.
- 5 Children, _____ are making too much noise!
- 6 Who are those people? Where are _____ from?
- 7 Mom is a doctor. _____ works in a hospital.
- 8 The sky is getting dark. _____ is going to rain.
- 9 John, we are all waiting for _____. Are you coming with _____?
- 10 May _____ borrow your pen?
- 11 Yes, of course. When can you return _____ to _____?
- 12 What are _____ reading, Jenny?

Some adjectives tell you the **color** of things.



Please get me some **white** paint.



The sky is **gray**.

The sea is **blue**.
George is wearing **brown** shoes.
I don't like **green** apples.
Carrots are **orange**.
Flamingos are **pink**.
Eggplants are **purple**.
Roses are **red**.



Your hands are **black**!

Exercise

Look at the underlined words in the following sentences. Do you know what kinds of adjectives they are?

In the blanks write *C* if the underlined words tell you about *color*, *S* if they tell you about *size*, *Ql* if they tell you about *quality*, *O* if they tell you about *origin*, or *Qn* if they tell you about the *number* or *quantity* of things.

- 1 Dad has two pairs of shoes. _____
- 2 One pair is brown and the other pair is black. _____
- 3 This is a very simple puzzle. _____
- 4 What color is the American flag? _____
- 5 A kind fairy appeared before Cinderella. _____
- 6 He is a proud man. _____
- 7 There is some food left. _____
- 8 Tom is wearing a blue T-shirt. _____
- 9 Jack has ten marbles; Peter has twenty. _____
- 10 How many marbles have Jack and Peter altogether? _____
- 11 There is an Indian temple in the city. _____
- 12 There is a large crowd outside the temple. _____
- 13 My house is just a few miles from the school. _____
- 14 They are driving a small car. _____
- 15 Sue likes those yellow and red balloons. _____

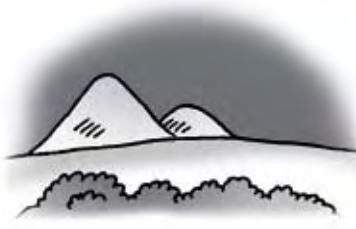
Use the **superlative** form of an adjective to compare three or more nouns. Lots of superlatives end in **-est**.



dark



darker



darkest



thick



thicker



thickest

clean	cleaner	cleanest
easy	easier	easiest
fat	fatter	fattest
flat	flatter	flattest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
hot	hotter	hottest
narrow	narrower	narrowest
noisy	noisier	noisiest
simple	simpler	simplest
thin	thinner	thinnest
wet	wetter	wettest



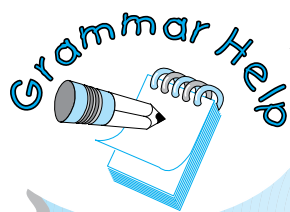
long



longer



longest



You often add **the** before the superlative form. For example, you say:

Mount Everest is **the** highest mountain in the world.

Peter is **the** tallest boy in his class.



- ▶ With adjectives that end in **-e**, add **-r** to form the **comparative**, and **-st** to form the **superlative**. For example:

	Comparative	Superlative
close	closer	closest
large	larger	largest
safe	safer	safest
wide	wider	widest

- ▶ Some adjectives have only one syllable, end with a consonant, and have a single vowel before the consonant. With these adjectives, double the last letter before adding **-er** to form the **comparative**, and **-est** to form the **superlative**. For example:

	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
dim	dimmer	dimmest
mad	madder	maddest
sad	sadder	saddest

- ▶ Some adjectives have two syllables and end in **-y**. With these adjectives change the **y** to **i**. Then add **-er** to form the **comparative**, and **-est** to form the **superlative**. For example:

	Comparative	Superlative
busy	busier	busiest
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest
happy	happier	happiest
pretty	prettier	prettiest

Possessive Determiners

The words **my, your, his, her, its, our, their** are called **possessive determiners** or **possessive adjectives**. Use these words before nouns to say who something belongs to.

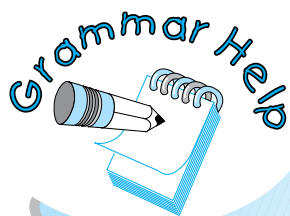


I lent Margaret **my** guitar.



Is this **your** house?
Robert, **your** handwriting is difficult to read.
Michael is showing **his** tortoise to **his** friends.
My sister lost **her** way in the city.
The lion is chasing **its** prey.

The dentist asked **his** patient to open **her** mouth.



Here is a table to help you remember the **possessive determiners**.

	Singular	Plural
First person	my	our
Second person	your	your
Third person	his her its	their their their

Exercise 5

Choose the correct *possessive adjectives* from the box to fill in the blanks.

my
its

his
our

your
their

her

- 1 Is this Jane's dog? Yes, this is _____ dog.
- 2 The dog is chasing _____ own tail.
- 3 Peter, is _____ father at home?
- 4 Rudy is showing _____ stamps to Ali.
- 5 I am going to _____ aunt's house this evening.
- 6 We always keep _____ classroom clean.
- 7 Children, have you all finished _____ homework?
- 8 The children are proud of _____ school.

Exercise 6

Choose the correct *interrogative adjectives* from the box to fill in the blanks.

what

which

whose

- 1 _____ kind of animal is that?
- 2 _____ runner is the winner?
- 3 _____ is the matter?
- 4 _____ desk is this?
- 5 _____ handphone is ringing?
- 6 _____ is your name?
- 7 _____ twin is taller?
- 8 _____ hand is holding the pebble?

Have and Has

The verbs **have** and **has** are used to say what people own or possess. They are also used to talk about things that people do or get, such as illnesses. These words are the simple present tense of the verb **have**.



We **have** breakfast at 7:00 A.M.



Peter **has** a sore knee.



Monkeys **have** long tails.

He **has** a lot of stamps.
She **has** long hair.
Our house **has** large windows.
I **have** a younger brother.
We **have** art lessons on Mondays.
Have a cookie, if you like.
Dad **has** a cold.
Jenny often **has** sandwiches for lunch.

Most irregular verbs, however, take a different form in the simple past tense.



Sam **bent** the stick in two.

Spelling File

Base Form

Simple Past

bend	bent
break	broke
bring	brought
buy	bought
fall	fell
fly	flew
get	got
hear	heard
keep	kept
lose	lost
sell	sold
shoot	shot
sleep	slept



Tom **shot** and scored a goal.

I **lost** my pen on the bus.

We **sold** our car last week.

The baby **slept** right through the night.

Peter **got** a watch for his birthday.

I **heard** a noise in the night.

He **brought** his pet mouse to school.

My book **fell** off the desk.



A bird **flew** into the classroom.

Use **do not**, **does not** and **did not** to make other verbs negative.



The baby **does not look** very happy.



Dad **did not catch** his train.



The garden looks lovely, **doesn't** it? Yes, it **does**.

Cats **do not** like water.

I **don't enjoy** difficult math tests.

Sophie **doesn't want** to go to school.

He **didn't get** to the station in time.

Don't you have a ticket? No, I **don't**.

Don't they go to the gym on Mondays? Yes, they **do**.

Didn't they win? No, they **didn't**.

You **didn't draw** that picture yourself, **did** you?

Did you see the rainbow? No, I **didn't**.

Do not forget to switch off the air conditioner.

Don't tell lies!

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with verbs that match the subjects. Use the correct form of the *simple present tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 I always _____ to school with my brother. (go)
- 2 Mark always _____ to school with his brother. (go)
- 3 You _____ the answer. (know)
- 4 Luis _____ the answer, too. (know)
- 5 This book _____ very few drawings. (have)
- 6 These books _____ lots of beautiful drawings. (have)
- 7 Anne _____ my sister. (be)
- 8 Pat and Alice _____ good at English. (be)

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with verbs that match the subjects. Use the correct form of the *simple present tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 A tiger _____. (roar)
- 2 All birds _____ eggs. (lay)
- 3 Dad _____ listening to music. (like)
- 4 Uncle Bob _____ his car every day. (wash)
- 5 She _____ all the answers. (know)
- 6 There _____ twelve months in a year. (be)
- 7 The twins often _____. (fight)
- 8 Our parents _____ us. (love)

Some adverbs describe when something happens.
They are called **adverbs of time**.



Can I do my work **later**?
No, do it **now**.



Paul has **just** arrived.

He **often** swims in the evening.

Lisa is **always** cheerful.

Sometimes I ride my bike to school.

Everyone arrived **early**.

David arrived **late**.

It's snowing **again**.

The mother bird started to build her nest **yesterday**.

She is continuing to build it **today**.

She will finish it **tomorrow**.

John's shoes were too big for him **last year**.

They fit him **this year**.

They will be too small for him **next year**.

It rained **last night**.

The weather is fine **this morning**.

10

Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they are related.

Some prepositions tell you about **position** or **place**.



There's a big balloon
in the sky.



Jane is jumping
into the pool.



The books fell
off the shelf.

Dad always keeps his wallet **in** the drawer.

There is a long mirror **on** the wall.

The school is **near** the park.

There is an old castle **on** the hill.

The horse jumped **over** the hurdle.



A **preposition** is usually followed by a noun or pronoun.

11

Conjunctions

A **conjunction** is a linking word such as **and**, **or**, **but**.
Conjunctions are used to connect words or sentences.



The animal is large **but** timid.



Is this a sheep **or** a goat?

a cat **and** its kittens
a builder **and** his tools
a doctor **and** a nurse
slow **but** steady
sweet **or** sour?
a male **or** a female?
A horse, a zebra **or** a donkey?
Paul has a dog, a parrot **and** a cat.



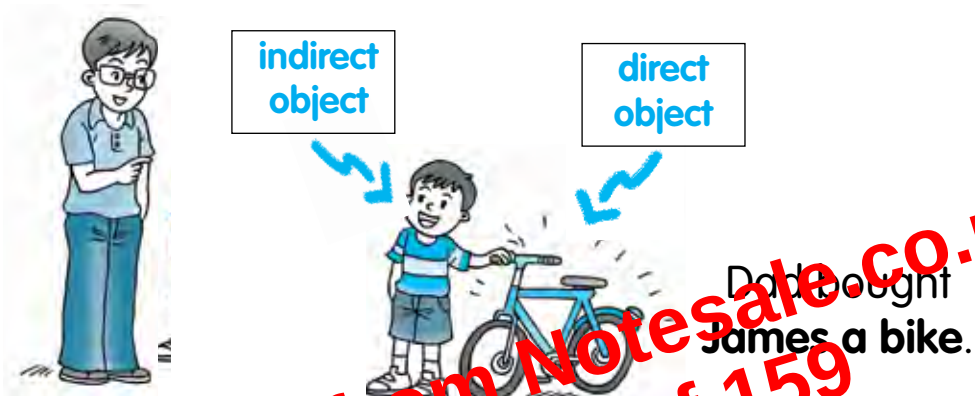
It's cold, wet **and** windy today.



A **conjunction** may link two or more than two words or sentences.

Direct and Indirect Objects

Some verbs have **two objects**. The **direct object** receives the action of the verb. The **indirect object** tells to whom or for whom the action is done.



Subject

Verb

Indirect Object

Direct Object

The bank	lends	people	money.
Madison	is making	her doll	a dress.
I	am writing	Grandma	a letter.
Grandma	is reading	Diana	a story.
Andrew	gave	his dog	a bone.
We	left	you	some food.
Joshua	is showing	us	his stamps.
Miss Lee	found	Alice	a chair.

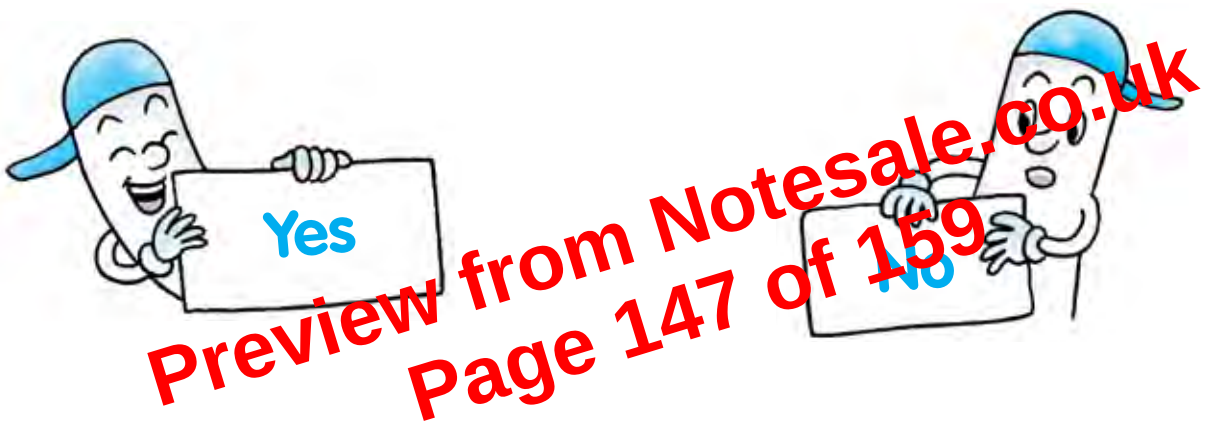


The **indirect object** usually comes before the **direct object**.

Positive and Negative Sentences

A **positive sentence** tells you that something is so.

A sentence that tells you something is *not* so is called a **negative sentence**. It contains a negative word like **not, never, no, no one, nobody, none**, or a negative verb like **isn't** or **can't** or **won't**.



Positive sentence

Peter is running.
We should tell the truth.
Everyone is in the garden.
The fridge is empty.
It is very cloudy.
I have sold the last newspaper.
Someone has eaten all the cookies.

Negative sentence

He is **not** walking.
We should **never** tell lies.
There is **no one** in the house.
There is **nothing** in it.
It **isn't** sunny.
I have **no** newspapers left.
There are **none** in the bag.

Wh- questions usually include the verbs **be**, **have**, **do**, or any of the helping verbs.

- ▶ To ask for facts, use the question words **what**, **which**, **who**, **whom**, **how**, **when**, **where**. The helping verbs in **wh-** questions usually come before the subject. So does the verb **be** when it is used as an ordinary verb.

Where **are** you?

What **is** David **saying**?

How **did** you **get up** here?

Why **was** the girl **crying**?

Which color **do** you **prefer**?

Who **is** she **going to invite** to her party?

Whom **is** she **going to invite** to her party?

What **is** your problem?

When **do** the stores **open** in the morning?

Where **shall** I **put** this box?

What **have** you **done** to my computer?

How **am** I **going to finish** all this work?

What **would** you **like** for dinner?



Whose dictionary
is this?

- ▶ If the **wh-** question word is the subject of the question, it comes before the verb. For example:

Who **told** you that?

What **made** you change your mind?

Exercise 1

Write *short answers* to the following questions.

Example: Is he tall? Yes, he is.

- 1 Do you know the answer? Yes, _____.
- 2 Is Sara at home? No, _____.
- 3 Do they know any grammar? Yes, _____.
- 4 Are all of you coming to my house this evening?
Yes, _____.
- 5 Is Mrs. Chen your English teacher? No, _____.
- 6 Can you dance? No, _____.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct question words from the box.

where	when	why	how
whose	what	who	which

- 1 _____ is your house?
- 2 _____ wallet is this?
- 3 _____ are you always late?
- 4 _____ wrote this book?
- 5 _____ of the two boys is smarter?
- 6 _____ size do you wear?
- 7 _____ old is he?
- 8 _____ is Jeff going to get a haircut?