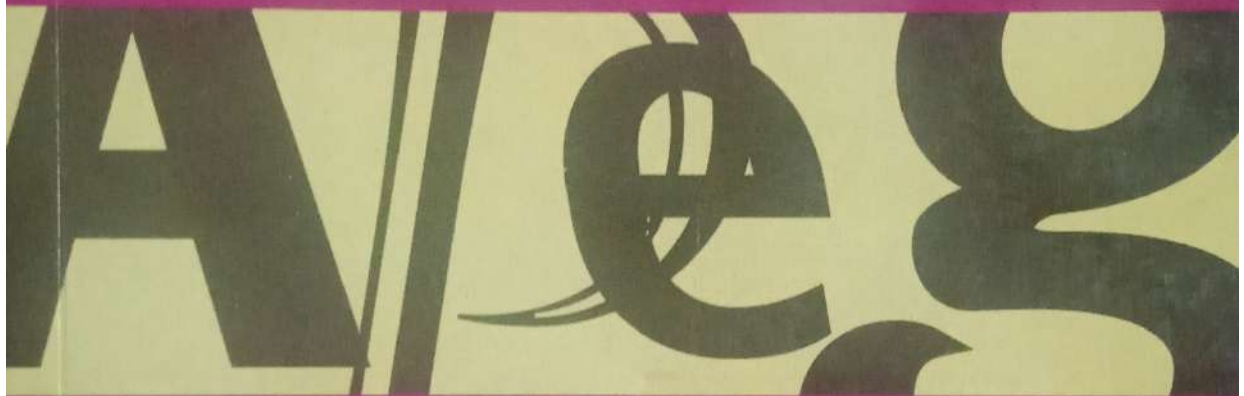


Fourth Edition

A Practical English Grammar



A. J. Thomson
A. V. Martinet



revised and updated!

OXFORD
INDIA

Contents

References are to sections, unless otherwise stated.

1 Articles and **one, a little/a few, this, that** *page 15*

a/an (the indefinite article) 1

Use of **a/an** 2

Omission of **a/an** 3

a/an and **one** 4

a little/a few and **little/few** 5

the (the definite article) 6

Omission of **the** 7

Omission of **the** before **home** etc. 8

this/these, that/those 9

2 Nouns *page 24*

Kinds and function 10

Gender 11

Plurals 12

Uncountable nouns 13

Form of possessive case 14

Use of possessive case etc. 15

Compound nouns 16

3 Adjectives *page 33*

Kinds of adjectives 17

Position of adjectives 18

Order of adjectives of quality 19

Comparison 20

Construction with comparisons 21

than/as + pronoun + auxiliary 22

the + adjective 23

Adjectives + **one/ones** etc. 24

many and **much** 25

Adjectives + infinitives 26

Adjectives + various

constructions 27

4 Adverbs *page 47*

Kinds of adverbs 28

Form and use

The formation of adverbs 29

Adjectives and adverbs with the same form 30

Comparative and superlative 31

far, farther/farthest etc. 32

much, more, most 33

Constructions with comparisons 34

Position

Adverbs of manner 35

Adverbs of place 36

Adverbs of time 37

Adverbs of frequency 38

Order of adverbs 39

Sentence adverbs 40

Adverbs of degree 41

fairly, rather, quite, hardly etc.

fairly and **rather** 42

quite 43

hardly, scarcely, barely 44

Inversion of the verb

Inversion after certain adverbs 45

5 **all, each, every, both, neither, either, some, any, no, none** *page 64*

all, each, every, everyone etc. 46

both 47

all/both/each + of etc. 48

neither, either 49

some, any, no and **none** 50

someone, anyone, no one etc. 51

else after **someone/anybody** etc. 52

another, other etc. with **one, some** 53

Contents

6 Interrogatives: **wh-?** words and **how?** *page 71*

Interrogative adjectives and pronouns 54
Affirmative verb after **who** etc. 55
who, whom, whose, which, what 56
who, whom, which and **what** as objects of prepositions 57
Uses of **what** 58
which compared with **who, what** 59
Interrogative adverbs:
why, when, where, how 60
ever after **who, what** etc. 61

7 Possessives, personal and reflexive pronouns: **my, mine, I, myself** etc. *page 75*

Possessive adjectives and pronouns 62
Agreement and use of possessive adjectives 63
Possessive pronouns replacing possessive adjectives + nouns 64
Personal pronouns 65
Position of pronoun objects 66
Use of **it** 67
Indefinite pronouns 68
Use of **they/them/their** with **neither/either, someone** etc. 69
Reflexive pronouns 70
Emphasizing pronouns 71

8 Relative pronouns and clauses *page 81*

Defining relative clauses 72
Relative pronoun used in defining clauses 73
Defining clauses: persons 74
Defining clauses: things 75
Cleft sentences 76
Relative clause replaced by infinitive or participle 77
Non-defining relative clauses 78
Non-defining clauses: persons 79

all, both, few, most, several etc. + **of + whom/which** 80
Non-defining clauses: things 81
Connective relative clauses 82
what (relative pronoun) and **which** (connective relative) 83
Commas in relative clauses 84
whoever, whichever etc. 85

9 Prepositions *page 91*

Introduction 86
Alternative position 87
Omission of **to** and **for** before indirect objects 88
Use and omission of **to** with verbs of communication 89
Time and date: **at, on, by** etc. 90
Time: **from, since, for** etc. 91
Time: **to, till/until, after, afterwards** (adverb) 92
Travel and movement: **from, to, at, in, by, on, into** etc. 93
at, in; in, into; on, onto 94
above, over, under etc. 95
Prepositions used with adjectives and participles 96
Verbs and preposition 97
Gerunds after prepositions 98
Prepositions/adverbs 99

10 Introduction to verbs *page 105*

Classes of verbs 100
Ordinary verbs
Principal parts 101
Active tenses 102
Negatives of tenses 103
Interrogative for questions and requests 104
Negative interrogative 105
Auxiliary verbs
Auxiliaries and modals 106
Forms and patterns an 107

Use of auxiliaries in short answers, agreements etc.

In short answers 108

Agreements and disagreements 109

Question tags 110

Comment tags 111

Additions to remarks 112

11 **be, have, do** *page 116*

be as an auxiliary verb

Form and use 113

be + infinitive 114

be as an ordinary verb

be to denote existence,

be + adjective 115

there is/are/was/were etc. 116

it is and **there is** compared 117

have as an auxiliary verb

Form and use 118

have + object + past participle 119

had better + bare infinitive 120

have + object + present participle 121

have as an ordinary verb

have meaning 'possess' 122

have meaning 'take', 'give' 123

do

Form 124

do used as an auxiliary 125

do used as an ordinary verb 126

12 **may** and **can** for permission and possibility *page 128*

Permission

may for permission: forms 127

can for permission: forms 128

may and **can** used for permission in the present or future 129

could or **was/were allowed to** for permission in the past 130

Requests for permission 131

Possibility

may/might for possibility 132

may/might + perfect infinitive 133

could or **may/might** 134

can for possibility 135

13 **can** and **be able** for ability *page 134*

can and **be able**: forms 136

can/am able, could/was able 137

could + perfect infinitive 138

14 **ought, should, must, have to, need** for obligation *page 137*

ought: forms 139

should: forms 140

ought/should compared to

must and **have to** 141

ought/should with the continuous infinitive 142

ought/should with the perfect infinitive 143

must and **have to**: forms 144

must and **have to**: difference 145

need not and **must not** in the present and future 146

need not, must not and **must** in the present and future 147

need: forms 148

Absence of obligation 149

need not and other forms 150

must, have to and **need** in the interrogative 151

needn't + perfect infinitive 152

needn't have (done) and

didn't have/need (to do) 153

needn't, could and **should** + perfect infinitive 154

to need meaning 'require' 155

15 **must, have, will and should**
for deduction and
assumption *page 147*

must for deduction 156
must compared to **may/might** 157
have/had for deduction 158
can't and **couldn't** used for
negative deduction 159
will and **should**: assumption 160

16 The auxiliaries **dare** and
used *page 150*

dare 161
used 162
to be/become/get used to 163

17 The present tenses
page 153

The present continuous

Form 164
Present participle: spelling 165
Uses 166
Other possible uses 167
Verbs not normally used 168
feel, look, smell and taste 169
see and hear 170
think, assume and expect 171

The simple present tense

Form 172
Used for habitual action 173
Other uses 174

18 The past and perfect tenses
page 161

The simple past tense

Form 175
Irregular verbs: form 176
Use for past events 177

The past continuous tense

Form 178

Main uses 179

Other uses 180

Past continuous or simple past 181

The present perfect tense

Form and use 182

Use with **just** 183

Past actions: indefinite time 184

Actions in an incomplete period 185

Actions lasting throughout
an incomplete period 186

Use with **for** and **since** 187

it is + period + **since** + past or
perfect tense 188

Present perfect and simple past 189

The present perfect continuous tense

Form 190

Use 191

Comparison of the present perfect
simple and continuous 192

Some more examples 193

The past perfect tense

Form and use 194

In time clauses 195

In indirect speech 196

The past perfect continuous tense

Form and use 197

19 The future *page 180*

Future forms 198

The simple present 199

Future with intention 200

will + infinitive 201

The present continuous 202

The **be going to** form 203

be going to used for intention 204

be going to and **will** + infinitive
to express intention 205

be going to used for prediction 206

The future simple 207

First person **will** and **shall** 208

Uses of the future simple 209

will contrasted with

want/wish/would like 210

The future continuous tense 211

The future continuous used as
an ordinary continuous tense 212

The future continuous used to
express future without intention 213

The future continuous and
will + infinitive compared 214

Various future forms 215

The future perfect and the future
perfect continuous 216

20 The sequence of tenses *page 195*

Subordinate clauses 217

The sequence of tenses 218

21 The conditional *page 196*

The conditional tenses

The present conditional tense 219

The perfect conditional tense 220

Conditional sentences

Conditional sentences type 1 221

Conditional sentences type 2 222

Conditional sentences type 3 223

will/would and **should** 224

if + **were** and inversion 225

if, even if, whether, unless,
but for, otherwise etc. 226

if and **in case** 227

if only 228

In indirect speech 229

22 Other uses of **will/would,** **shall/should** *page 206*

Habits expressed by **will, would** 230

should/would think +

that-clause or **so/not** 231

would for past intention 232

shall I/we? 233

shall: second and third persons 234

that . . . should 235

it is/was + adjective +

that . . . should 236

Other uses of **should** 237

23 The infinitive *page 212*

Form 238

Uses of the infinitive 239

The infinitive as subject 240

As object or complement 241

Verb + **how/what** etc. + infinitive 242

Infinitive after verb or

verb + object 243

Infinitive after verb + object 244

Infinitive after verbs of

knowing and thinking etc. 245

The bare infinitive 246

Infinitive represented by **to** 247

Split infinitives 248

Infinitive as connective link 249

Infinitive used to replace

a relative clause 250

Infinitive after certain nouns 251

After **too, enough, so . . . as** 252

Infinitive phrases 253

The continuous infinitive 254

The perfect infinitive 255

Perfect infinitive continuous 256

24 The gerund *page 228*

Form and use 257

The gerund as subject 258

Gerunds after prepositions 259

The word **to** 260

Verbs followed by the gerund 261

Verbs + possessive adjective/
pronoun object + gerund 262

The verb **mind** 263

The perfect gerund 264

The passive gerund 265

25 Infinitive and gerund constructions *page 234*

Verbs + infinitive or gerund 266
Verbs + infinitive or gerund without change of meaning 267
regret, remember, forget 268
agree/agree to, mean, propose 269
go on, stop, try, used (to) 270
be afraid (of), be sorry (for), be ashamed (of) 271

26 The participles *page 239*

Present (or active) participle 272
After verbs of sensation 273
catch, find, leave + object + present participle 274
go, come, spend, waste etc. 275
A present participle phrase replacing a main clause 276
A present participle phrase replacing a subordinate clause 277
Perfect participle (active) 278
Past participle (passive) and perfect participle (passive) 279
Misrelated participles 280

27 Commands, requests, invitations, advice, suggestions *page 245*

The imperative for commands 281
Other ways of expressing commands 282
Requests with **can/could/may/might I/we** 283
Requests with **could/will/would you etc.** 284
Requests with **might** 285
Invitations 286
Advice forms 287
Advice with **may/might as well + infinitive** 288
Suggestions 289

28 The subjunctive *page 253*

Form 290
Use of the present subjunctive 291
as if etc. + past subjunctive 292
it is time + past subjunctive 293

29 care, like, love, hate, prefer, wish *page 255*

care and like 294
care, like, love, hate, prefer 295
would like and want 296
would rather/sooner and prefer/would prefer 297
More examples of preference 298
wish, want and would like 299
wish + subject + unreal past 300
wish (that) + subject + would 301

30 The passive voice *page 263*

Form 302
Active and passive equivalents 303
Uses of the passive 304
Prepositions with passive verbs 305
Infinitive constructions after passive verbs 306

31 Indirect speech *page 269*

Direct and indirect speech 307
Statements in indirect speech: tense changes necessary 308
Past tenses 309
Unreal past tenses 310
might, ought to, should, would, used to in indirect statements 311
could in indirect statements 312
Pronoun and adjective 313
Expressions of time and place 314
Infinitive and gerund 315
say, tell etc. 316
Questions in indirect speech 317
Questions beginning **shall I/we?** 318

Questions beginning **will you/**
would you/could you? 319
 Commands, requests, advice 320
 Other ways of expressing
 indirect commands 321
let's, let us, let him/them 322
 Exclamations and **yes** and **no** 323
 Indirect speech: mixed types 324
must and **needn't** 325

32 Conjunctions *page 288*

Co-ordinating conjunctions 326
besides, so, still, yet etc. 327
 Subordinating conjunctions 328
though/although, in spite of,
despite 329
for and **because** 330
when, while, as to express time 331
as meaning **when/while** or
because/since 332
as, when, while used to mean
although, but, seeing that 333

33 Purpose *page 294*

Purpose expressed by infinitive 334
 Infinitives after **go** and **come** 335
 Clauses of purpose 336
in case and **lest** 337

34 Clauses of reason, result, concession, comparison, time *page 298*

Reason and result/cause 338
 Results with **such/so . . . that** 339
 Clauses of concession 340
 Clauses of comparison 341
 Time clauses 342

35 Noun clauses *page 303*

Noun clauses as subject 343
that-clauses after certain
 adjectives/participles 344
that-clauses after nouns 345
 Noun clauses as objects 346
so and **not** representing
 a **that**-clause 347

36 Numerals, dates, and weights and measures *page 307*

Cardinal numbers 348
 Points about cardinal numbers 349
 Ordinal numbers 350
 Points about ordinal numbers 351
 Dates 352
 Weights, length, liquids 353

37 Spelling rules *page 311*

Introduction 354
 Doubling the consonant 355
 Omission of a final **e** 356
 Words ending in **ce** and **ge** 357
 The suffix **ful** 358
 Words endings in **y** 359
ie and **ei** 360
 Hyphens 361

38 Phrasal verbs *page 315*

Introduction 362
 Verb + preposition/adverb 363

39 List of irregular verbs *page 353*

Irregular verbs 364

Index *page 359*