

**ENGLISH GRAMMAR
SIMPLIFIED: ITS
STUDY MADE EASY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649574407

English Grammar Simplified: Its Study Made Easy by James C. Fernald

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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JAMES C. FERNALD

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FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY, Publishers
354-360 Fourth Avenue :: :: NEW YORK

ENGLISH GRAMMAR SIMPLIFIED

ITS STUDY MADE EASY

BY

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Author of "Synonyms, Antonyms, and Prepositions," "Connectives of English Speech," "A Working Grammar of the English Language," etc.; Editor of the "Student's Standard Dictionary"; Associate Editor of the "Standard Dictionary of the English Language," etc.

SECOND EDITION



FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY

NEW YORK AND LONDON

1916

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[Printed in the United States of America]
Published, February, 1916

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PREFACE

THIS book is designed as a complete summary of English grammar. It is not of the class of small grammars that are made brief by leaving out bodily numerous important matters. Brevity is here secured by eliminating discussions and extended explanations, while retaining every important fact. The aim is *to include everything in correct English usage that is a legitimate subject of rational inquiry for practical purposes.*

The method of **DIRECT STATEMENT** has been followed throughout. Interesting as the philosophy of language is, school children, clerks, stenographers, business men, have not time—nor ability—to work out by “induction” the facts of English usage established during the five centuries since the death of Chaucer. The attempt to do so is but playing with the impossible. The result of that system is to give the student the feeling that grammar is guesswork—“sometimes you can guess it, and sometimes not.” So he goes on guessing through his life, and half the time guessing wrong.

The facts of correct English usage are, for the most part, as sure as the facts of the working of a watch or of a locomotive. We can do no better service for any student, young or old, than to tell him definitely what those facts are, and let him learn them once for all.

These definitely settled facts are sometimes given as “rules,” but since many persons have the feeling that a grammatical “rule” is something arbitrarily inflicted upon the language by grammarians, the author has here deemed

it preferable, in most cases, to state the accepted facts of English usage simply as facts, rather than in the form of "rules."

The facts so stated will be found to be such. They have been verified by extensive study of the best authorities, including the *New English Dictionary* of Dr. Murray, with its unrivalled store of quotations from standard English authors from the thirteenth century to the present time; *Maetsner's English Grammar*, a work of wonderful philosophical acumen, also rich in quotations from standard English authors; Gould Brown's remarkable compilation in his *Grammar of English Grammars*, and the most prominent text-books on grammar now in accredited use in the public schools. Statements which are given, seemingly off-hand, in some few lines, are always the result of careful, and often of protracted, study. The aim has been to make every statement in the highest degree *dependable*—safe to rely upon and to act upon. So constructed, it is believed that this brief work is not excelled in accuracy by the most pretentious volumes now before the public. To have such results massed in a compact and handy volume is a distinct desideratum.

The plan of the work is the simplest possible. Practical English grammar is nothing but *the correct use of English words in English sentences*, and this book undertakes to give all that, and nothing but that.

Words are grammatically ranged in classes, as Parts of Speech. Each Part of Speech is treated, so far as that is possible, by and for itself. Then the Sentence is taken up, beginning with the Simple Sentence, with full explanation of the two great divisions of Subject and Predicate. Under these heads, the uses of the Parts of Speech are shown in their order, first in the Subject, secondly in the

Predicate; as, "The Noun in the Complete Subject," etc. After the treatment of the Simple Sentence, Compound and Complex Sentences are explained as combinations of Simple Sentences. That is all. There is nothing left to do.

The simplest words that the subject will bear have been used in the statements of facts and principles, the rule being to use, wherever possible, a common in preference to a technical word.

English grammar is here taught distinctly and definitely as English, with no attempt to make it resemble the Latin, Greek, French, German, etc. The English has become a real and grand world-language, with a vast literature and a special genius of its own, and is not to be shaped to the model of any other. Throughout the work the controlling idea has been, not that the grammar is to make the language, but that the language has made the grammar. Fortunately, English can do what many other languages can not do, and in treating English grammar the English language is our sole concern.

The illustrative selections, in the various Exercises, chosen both for simplicity and beauty, are all from the best literature, every quotation thus carrying authority. Each quotation is located, both by the name of the author and of his work, that the grammatical study may help also to lead the student out to a good range of reading. Many a sentence, if learned, will come back with more than the power of a rule, to settle some disputed point, for these extracts represent grammar in action in the hands of those who know how to use it.

Errors of usage have been somewhat rarely noted, for one does not learn correct speech by studying the incorrect; but many of the most prevalent faults have been