

COLLINS
COBUILD
BASIC
GRAMMAR

SELF-STUDY EDITION
WITH ANSWERS

Dave Willis & Jon Wright



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM**



**COLLINS
COBUILD**

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Contents

Cycle 1

Unit 1	Am/is/are	4	Unit 17	Singular, plural and collective nouns	36
Unit 2	Present continuous	6	Unit 18	Uncount nouns	38
Unit 3	Present simple	8	Unit 19	A/an/some	40
Unit 4	Do/does and have/has in questions and negatives	10	Unit 20	The	42
Unit 5	Present perfect (1)	12	Unit 21	Other uses of the	44
Unit 6	Present perfect (2)	14	Unit 22	Possessives	46
Unit 7	Was/were	16	Unit 23	Demonstrative adjectives	48
Unit 8	Past simple	18	Unit 24	Personal pronouns	50
Unit 9	Past continuous	20	Unit 25	This, that, these, those, one, ones	52
Unit 10	Past perfect	22	Unit 26	Possessive pronouns	54
Unit 11	Present tenses used for the future	24	Unit 27	Adverbials of time	56
Unit 12	Will and going to	26	Unit 28	Adverbials of probability and degree	58
Unit 13	There	28	Unit 29	Adverbials of duration	60
Unit 14	What ...?	30	Unit 30	in/on/at (time)	62
Unit 15	Wh- questions	32		Review: Cycle 1 – Units 1–30	64
Unit 16	Count nouns	34			

Cycle 2

Unit 31	May/might (possibility)	72	Unit 41	Quantifiers (1) – patterns with of	92
Unit 32	Can/could/be able to (possibility and ability)	74	Unit 42	Quantifiers (2)	94
Unit 33	Can/could/will/would (offers and requests)	76	Unit 43	Quantifiers (3) – few; a few; any	96
Unit 34	Would like/want (wants and wishes)	78	Unit 44	Nouns to describe other nouns	98
Unit 35	Have to/have got to/must/mustn't (obligation)	80	Unit 45	Expressions of place	100
Unit 36	Should/ought/had better (advice)	82	Unit 46	Expressions of time	102
Unit 37	Impersonal it	84	Unit 47	Adverbs of manner	104
Unit 38	Verbs with two objects	86	Unit 48	At/in (place)	106
Unit 39	Make and do	88	Unit 49	Prepositions with forms of transport	108
Unit 40	Uncount nouns (2)	90		Review: Cycle 2 – Units 31–49	110
				General review A: Cycles 1 and 2	116

Contents

Cycle 3

Unit 50	Should/ought/must/can't (probability)	118	Unit 58	Phrasal verbs 2	134
Unit 51	Can/could/may/need (requests and permission)	120	Unit 59	Verbs with prepositions	136
Unit 52	Likes/dislikes/invitations	122	Unit 60	Reflexive verbs	138
Unit 53	Saying and thinking (+ object) + to + infinitive	124	Unit 61	-ing and -ed adjectives	140
Unit 54	Make/let/help + plain infinitive	126	Unit 62	Indefinite pronouns	142
Unit 55	Verbs of perception + object + infinitive/-ing	128	Unit 63	Comparatives	144
Unit 56	Delexical verbs (give/take/have/go)	130	Unit 64	The -est; than; as ... as ...	146
Unit 57	Phrasal verbs	132	Unit 65	So/such	148
				Review: Cycle 3 – Units 50–65	150
				General review B: Cycle 1	158
				General review C: Cycle 2	161
				General review D: Cycle 3	164

Cycle 4

Unit 66	Verbs not used in continuous tenses	166	Unit 77	Purpose and reason	188
Unit 67	The passive	168	Unit 78	Result	190
Unit 68	Reporting the past	170	Unit 79	Contrast and comparison	192
Unit 69	Short answers	172	Unit 80	Describing clauses	194
Unit 70	Question tags	174		Review: Cycle 4 – Units 66–80	196
Unit 71	Too/either/so/neither	176		General review E	207
Unit 72	Defining relatives	178		Spelling	211
Unit 73	Adjectives with to clauses	180		Pronunciation	214
Unit 74	Too/enough	182		Numbers	220
Unit 75	Present tenses with if, when etc	184		Numbers Practice	221
Unit 76	Past tense with wish and if	186		Letters	222

Introduction

Writing a basic grammar of English is a difficult undertaking. It is important to identify the basic patterns of the language and to organise and exemplify these in a way which is accessible to the elementary learner. It is important to provide teachers and learners with a clear authoritative statement. But it is also important to make statements and offer examples which give a true reflection of the language.

Of course a grammar is not a course in itself. It should be seen as an invaluable supplement to the day to day work in the classroom and as a useful resource for self-study. To help with this we have organised the material into four 'cycles'. In each cycle we illustrate first the grammar of the verb group, secondly the noun group, and finally adverbials. In determining the content of each cycle we have tried to reflect the priorities revealed in most teaching materials at this level.

The verb section Cycle 1, for example, deals with the basic tense uses, question forms, and patterns with *There* as subject. In Cycle 4, on the other hand, there is work on complex sentences with clauses of time, purpose, reason, condition, and so on. After each Cycle there is a Review section which revises the work of that Cycle in detail and goes on to incorporate work from previous Cycles. It is hoped that this cyclical organisation will help teachers to fit work on grammar conveniently into their existing teaching programme.

Finally we have included specific sections on spelling, numbers, and pronunciation. All of these are of central importance to the elementary learner.

A self-study edition of this book is available, with a key to all the exercises. We have also made this key available on audio-cassette. This will provide the teacher with an extra dimension in the classroom, and should provide invaluable support for learners studying on their own.