Basic Grammar in Use
Student’s Book

Basic Grammar in Use
Reference and Practice for Students of English
Second Edition
Raymond Murphy with William R. Smalzer

Designed for high-beginning to low-intermediate students, this text focuses on the fundamental grammar structures normally taught in basic or introductory courses. Teachers using a main course book in lower-level classes may wish to assign Basic Grammar in Use as a reference guide so that students can look up grammar points that cause them difficulty. The second edition of this book contains:

- New units and additional exercises
- A study guide (available only in the edition with answers) that helps identify students’ areas of difficulty
- An Audio CD with recordings of example sentences so students can hear the grammar structures they are learning

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High Beginning to Low Intermediate

www.cambridge.org/elt/inuse
**Grammar in Use Student’s Book**

**Grammar in Use Intermediate**
Reference and Practice for Students of English
Second Edition
_Raymond Murphy with William R. Smalzer_

This text focuses on grammar structures that cause difficulty for intermediate students. The second edition of _Grammar in Use Intermediate_ contains nine new units, more exercises, and three entirely new features:

- Additional Exercises that provide students with the opportunity to consolidate what they have learned
- A Study Guide (available only in the edition with answers) that can be used to identify students’ areas of difficulty
- An Audio CD with recordings of example sentences

_Grammar in Use Intermediate_ is suitable for students who are preparing for the TOEFL® test or for other standard examinations.

**Grammar in Use Workbooks**

**Grammar in Use Workbooks**
_William R. Smalzer with Raymond Murphy_

The _Grammar in Use_ Workbooks provide students with further opportunities to practice difficult grammar points and to consolidate their understanding of related grammar topics, such as different ways of expressing the future. They offer a wide range of challenging activities and opportunities to work with grammar structures in meaningful contexts. The Workbooks also include review sections for each group of units in the Student’s Books. These groups – such as the Present Perfect, Modals, and Articles – are listed in the table of contents of each Student’s Book. The _Grammar in Use_, Intermediate and _Basic Grammar in Use_ Workbooks are available in editions with and without answers.

The _Grammar in Use_ Workbooks can be used to:

- Provide practice of difficult grammar points
- Allow students to consolidate what they have learned in different units of the Student’s Books
- Expand on the range of exercise types used in the Student’s Books
- Offer opportunities to work with grammar structures in meaningful contexts
- Expose students to a more extensive vocabulary than the Student’s Books, with definitions provided for difficult words

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Sample Unit

Was/were

am/is/are (present) → was/were (past)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>he/she</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>was not (wasn’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it</td>
<td></td>
<td>he/she?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we</td>
<td>were</td>
<td>were not (weren’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>you?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they</td>
<td>they?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last night Amy was 22, so she’s 23 now.

When I was a child, I was afraid of dogs.

We were hungry after the trip, but we weren’t tired.

The hotel was comfortable, but it wasn’t expensive.

Was the weather nice when you were on vacation?

Those shoes are nice. Were they expensive?

Why were you late this morning?

Short answers

Yes, I/he/she/it was. We/you/they were.

No, I/he/she/it wasn’t. We/you/they weren’t.

Exercises

10.1 Where were these people at 3 o’clock yesterday afternoon? Where were you?

1. Bill was in [ ]
   2. Elena and Pablo were [ ]
   3. Kate was [ ]
   4. On [ ]
   5. At [ ]

10.2 Write am/is/are (present) or was/were (past).

1. Last year she was 22, so she is 23 now.
2. Today the weather is very nice, but yesterday it was very cold.
3. I’m hungry. Can I have something to eat?
4. I feel fine this morning, but I was very tired last night.
5. Where were you at 11 o’clock last Friday morning?
6. Don’t buy those shoes. They are very expensive.
7. I like your new jacket. How expensive is it?
8. “Where are the children?” “I don’t know. They are here ten minutes ago.”

10.3 Write was/wasn’t or were/weren’t.

1. We weren’t happy with the hotel. Our room was very small, and it wasn’t very clean.
2. Bill worked at work last week because he was sick. He’s better now.
3. Yesterday was a holiday, so the banks were closed. They’re open today.
4. Kate and John are at the party? Kate was there, but John wasn’t.
5. “Where are my keys?” “I don’t know. They are on the table, but they aren’t there now.”
6. You weren’t at home last night. Where were you?

10.4 Write questions. Use the words in parentheses ( ) in the correct order and was/were.

1. (late / you / this morning / why?) Why were you late this morning?
2. (hard / your exam / it was?) How was your exam?
3. (last week / where / Beth and Bill / they were?) Where were Beth and Bill last week?
4. (angry / you / your boss / your boss was?) How was your boss?
5. (nice / the weather / last week / it was?) How was the weather last week?
**UNIT 1**

**Present Continuous (I am doing)**

**A**

Study this example situation:

Ann is in her car. She is on her way to work. She is driving to work.

This means she is driving now, at the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

Am/Is/Are + -ing is the present continuous:

I am (so I’m) ________

he/she/it is (so he/she/it’s) ________

we/you/they are (so we/you’re/they’re) ________

**B**

I am doing something = I’m in the middle of doing something; I’ve started doing it and I haven’t finished yet. Often the action is happening at the time of speaking:

- Please don’t make so much noise. I’m working.
- Where’s Lauren?” “She’s taking a bath.”
- Let’s go out now. It isn’t raining anymore. (not It doesn’t rain)
- (at a party) Hello, Lisa. Are you enjoying the party? (not Do you enjoy)
- I’m tired. I’m going to bed now. Good night!

But the action is not necessarily happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Tom and Ann are talking. Tom says:

I’m reading an interesting book at the moment. I’ll lend it to you when I’ve finished it.

Tom is not reading the book at the time of speaking. He means that he has started it but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

**C**

We use the present continuous when we talk about things happening in a period around now (for example, today / this week / tonight, etc.):

- “You’re working hard today.” “Yes, I have a lot to do.” (not You work hard today)
- “Is Sarah working this week?” “No, she’s on vacation.”

We use the present continuous when we talk about changes happening now or around now:

- The population of the world is rising very fast. (not rises)
- Is your English getting better? (not Does your English get better?)

**Exercises**

1.1 Complete the sentences using one of the following verbs in the correct form.

- come  get happen make start work try work

1. “You’re working ________ hard.” “Yes, I have a lot to do.”
2. ________ for Christine. Do you know where she is?
3. It ________ dark. Should I turn on the light?
4. They don’t have anywhere to live at the moment. They ________ with friends until they find a place.
5. “Ann! Let’s go!” “OK, I ________.”
6. Do you have an umbrella? It ________ to rain.
7. You ________ a lot of noise. Could you please be quieter?
8. ________ to concentrate.
9. Why are all these people here? What ________ ?

1.2 Use the words in parentheses to complete the questions.

1. “Is Brad working ________ this week?” “No, he’s on vacation.” (Brad / work)
2. Why ________ at me like that? What’s the matter? (you / look)
3. Jenny is a student at the university. “Is she ________?” (she / study)
4. ________ to the radio, or can I turn it off? (anybody / listen)
5. How is your English? ________ better? (it / get)

1.3 Put the verb into the correct form. Sometimes you need the negative (I’m not doing, etc.).

1. I’m tired. I ________ (go) to bed now. Good night!
2. We can go out now. It ________ (rain) anymore.
3. Laura phoned me last night. She ________ (be) in France. She ________ (have) a great time and doesn’t want to come back.
4. I want to lose weight, so this week I ________ (eat) lunch.
5. Angela has just started evening classes. She ________ (study) German.
6. I think Dave and Amy had an argument. They ________ (speak) to each other.

1.4 Read this conversation between Brian and Sarah. Put the verbs into the correct form.

Sarah: Brian! I haven’t seen you in ages. What ________ you ________ (do) these days?
Brian: (1) train ________ (train) to be a police officer.
Sarah: Really? What’s it like? (2) you ________ (enjoy)?
Brian: It’s all right. How about you?
Sarah: Well, actually, I ________ (be) (not / work) right now.
Brian: (3) ________ (try) to find a job, but it’s not easy. But I’m pretty busy.
Sarah: (4) ________ (paint) my apartment.
Brian: (5) ________ (do / you / do) it alone? (help) me.

1.5 Complete the sentences using one of these verbs: change fall get increase rise

1. You don’t have to use all the verbs, and you can use a verb more than once.
   - The world ________ very fast.
   - Robert is still sick, but he ________ better slowly.
   - The world ________ . Things never stay the same.
   - The cost of living ________ . Every year things are more expensive.
   - The economic situation is already very bad, and it ________ worse.
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Basic Grammar in Use

10.1
2. were; school
3. was; the airport
4. Mr. and Mrs. Hall were; the/a bus
5. Gary was; the beach
6. Sample answer; was at work

10.2
2. is; was
3. 'm (am)
4. was
5. were
6. 're (are)
7. Was
8. are; were

10.3
2. wasn't (was not)
3. was; were
4. Were; was; wasn't (was not) or wasn't (was not); was
5. were
6. weren't (were not); were

10.4
2. Was your exam hard?
3. Where were Beth and Bill last week?
4. Why were you angry yesterday?
5. Was the weather nice last week?

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