

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xii</i>
Introduction	1
British and American as national varieties	1
Differences between British and American	2
The basis of this study	2
Sources of comparative statistics and citations	4
Conventions and organization of this study	6
Part I Parts of Speech	9
1 Verbs	11
1.1 Derivation	11
1.2 Form	12
1.3 Verb phrases	24
1.4 Functions	31
2 Determiners	43
2.1 Definite article	43
2.2 Indefinite article	49
2.3 Possessive construction	52
2.4 No determiner versus some determiner	53
2.5 Predeterminers and postdeterminers	64
3 Nouns	69
3.1 Derivation	69
3.2 Form	76
3.3 Function	86
3.4 Names and titles	102
3.5 Genitive constructions	104

viii Contents

4	Pronouns	107
4.1	Personal	107
4.2	Impersonal	110
4.3	Demonstrative	111
4.4	Relative	112
4.5	Interrogative	114
4.6	Indefinite	114
4.7	Expletive	115
4.8	Case	116
5	Adjectives	119
5.1	Derivation	119
5.2	Frequency and collocation	126
5.3	Comparison	128
5.4	Adjective order	131
6	Adverbs	133
6.1	General	133
6.2	Disjuncts	146
6.3	Comparison	148
6.4	Adverb order	148
6.5	Adverbial particles	151
7	Qualifiers	153
7.1	Modifying adjectives or adverbs	153
7.2	Modifying prepositional phrases	157
7.3	Modifying comparative structures	158
8	Prepositions	159
8.1	Choice of preposition	159
8.2	Omission of any preposition	194
8.3	Omission of the prepositional object	197
8.4	Prepositional phrase versus noun adjunct	197
8.5	Order of numbers with <i>by</i>	197
9	Conjunctions	199
9.1	Coordinating conjunctions	199
9.2	Subordinating conjunctions	201
10	Interjections	207
Part II	Syntactic Constructions	215
11	Complementation	217
11.1	Complementation of verbs	217
11.2	Complementation of nouns	251
11.3	Complementation of adjectives	257
11.4	Complementation of adverbs	261

Contents ix

12	Mandative constructions	263
12.1	Mandative present indicative	264
12.2	Mandative past indicative	266
13	Expanded predicates	269
13.1	Five “light” verbs in British and American	270
13.2	Modification and complementation of the expanded predicate noun	276
13.3	Other expanded-predicate-like constructions	277
14	Concord	279
14.1	Verb and pronoun concord with collective nouns	279
14.2	Verb concord in other problematical cases	285
15	Propredicates	287
15.1	Propredicate <i>do</i>	287
15.2	Complements of propredicates	292
16	Tag questions	293
16.1	Canonical form	293
16.2	Anomalous forms	293
16.3	Frequency of use	296
16.4	Rhetorical uses	297
16.5	Other forms and uses	302
17	Miscellaneous	305
17.1	Focus	305
17.2	Phatic language	308
17.3	Numbers	310
17.4	Dates	311
	<i>Bibliography of British book citation sources</i>	313
	<i>Bibliography of studies, dictionaries, and corpora</i>	319
	<i>Index of words</i>	325