

Analysing English Sentence Structure

Andrew Radford has acquired an unrivalled reputation over the past forty years for writing syntax textbooks in which difficult concepts are clearly explained without excessive use of technical jargon. *Analysing English Sentence Structure* continues in this tradition, offering a well-structured intermediate course in English syntax and contemporary syntactic theory. Chapters are split into core modules, each focusing on a specific topic, and the reader is supported throughout with learning aids such as summaries, lists of key hypotheses and principles, extensive references, exercises with handy hints, and a glossary of terminology. Both teachers and instructors will benefit from the book's free online resources, which comprise an open-access *Students' Answerbook*, and a password-protected *Teachers' Answerbook*, each containing comprehensive answers to exercises, with detailed tree diagrams. The book and accompanying resources are designed to serve both as a coursebook for use in class, and as a self-study resource for use at home.

Andrew Radford is Emeritus Professor at the University of Essex. He has written a number of popular textbooks, including *Transformational Grammar* (1988) and *Minimalist Syntax* (2004), and research monographs on *Colloquial English* (2018) and *Relative Clauses* (2019).

Analysing English Sentence Structure

An Intermediate
Course in Syntax

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This book is dedicated to a very special person – my dear wife Khadija. Thank you for the unstinting love, friendship, happiness and laughter you have brought me over the past four decades, for sharing your ever-welcoming family with me, and for broadening my cultural horizons to include couscous and (through your two amazing sons, Karim and Mourad)
Olympique Marseille: *Allez l'OM!*

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Preface

Aims

This book is a response to the question: ‘What kind of course materials can we use for an intermediate course intended as a follow-up to an introduction to English syntax?’ Some teachers use handbooks, and others use sets of original research articles, but both of these can be too demanding for many students, and do not contain essential teaching materials such as exercises with helpful hints and model answers, or a glossary of terminology. This book aims to fill this gap in the market, and to serve as an intermediate coursebook in syntactic analysis and English syntax, designed as a follow-up to introductory syntax books. It aims to give readers:

- a thorough grounding in syntactic analysis and argumentation, and in how the syntactic component of a grammar works
- an appreciation of how data can be used to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of competing accounts of syntactic phenomena
- familiarity with a wide range of phenomena in English syntax, and how they can be analysed using concepts and constructs discussed in the book
- an understanding of Minimalist and Cartographic approaches to syntax, and how they handle specific phenomena
- hands-on experience of analysing specific phenomena through the extensive exercise material in the ‘Workbook’ module of each chapter
- detailed feedback on exercise answers for students and teachers in the (free) online Answerbooks (one for students, another for teachers)

It is a dual-purpose book, designed to function both:

- as a coursebook, providing extensive materials for lectures, seminars, workshops, classes, and assignments; and
- as a self-study aid for students working from home

Level of the book

The book is designed as a follow-up course for students who have already taken an introductory course in syntax (such as Radford 2016 or Radford 2020) and presupposes familiarity with:

- approaches to grammar; the goals of linguistic theory; the nature of categories and features; words, phrases, clauses and sentences; universals; variation
- syntactic structure: X-bar syntax: heads, complements, specifiers and adjuncts; the classic CP+TP+VP model of clause structure; tests for constituent structure
- null constituents: null subjects; null T and C heads; null D and P heads
- Head Movement operations; Auxiliary Inversion; Auxiliary Raising; Verb Raising
- Movement to spec-CP; Wh-Movement in interrogatives, exclamatives and relatives; Topicalisation; Focusing; Constraints on movement

For readers who may need reminding about some of these topics, Chapter 1 provides a *Background* summarising the key ideas that are taken as assumed knowledge in the rest of the book.

Key features

Key features of the book include the following:

- It is written in an accessible style and adopts a hands-on approach in which students get to do syntax for themselves, with extensive practice exercise material in the Workbook modules of the book, and model answers and detailed solutions provided in the accompanying free online Answerbooks for students and teachers
- It makes extensive use of authentic materials from a wide variety of written and spoken sources, and covers a range of unusual structures which tend to be neglected in most textbooks, thereby offering an interesting perspective on microvariation
- It takes an in-depth look at a range of topics not touched on in any detail in earlier books of mine, with two chapters devoted to the syntax of the clause periphery, another to the syntax of the subperiphery, and another to the syntax of abbreviated registers of English (as found e.g. in recipe books, social media, newspaper headlines, etc.)
- It has a modular structure, with each chapter including a number of core modules, each tackling a distinct topic and having its own set of

dedicated exercise materials (with answers in the Answerbooks): for example, Exercise 2.1 is linked to Module 2.1, Exercise 2.2 to Module 2.2, Exercise 2.3 to Module 2.3, and so on. This modular structure makes it easier to regulate the pace of learning (e.g. for teachers/learners to decide whether to cover one, two, or more modules per week), and to skip specific modules or chapters if so desired (e.g. modules on non-standard structures, or the chapter on Agreement, etc.)

- All modules within chapters are subdivided into sections, so breaking up the material into shorter (and more readable) units
- The book begins with a Background chapter reminding students of key ideas that they will have covered in an earlier introductory course, some of which they may – Heaven forbid! – have forgotten
- The core chapters in the book contain extensive materials designed to help students, including an overview and summary of the main points and key constructs in each chapter, and a set of bibliographical notes that form a useful starting point for a literature review for research projects on a wide range of topics
- Each chapter also includes a ‘Workbook’ component containing extensive exercise material (one exercise for each core module in the chapter), and helpful hints for students on how to tackle exercises, plus a list of key constructs for students to utilise in tackling exercise examples
- Some Workbook exercise examples have an [M] after them, and this means that a model answer is provided in the *Students’ Answerbook* (see below). Other exercise examples have an [S] after them, indicating that they are for self-study (so that after reading the relevant module, helpful hints and model answer associated with the exercise, students can analyse the self-study examples on their own, and then compare their answers with those provided in the *Students’ Answerbook*). The remaining exercise examples are intended for teachers to use as the basis for hands-on problem-solving work in workshops, seminars, classes, or assignments: answers to all of these non-self-study examples are given in the *Teachers’ Answerbook* (along with model answers, and answers to self-study exercises).
- There is a detailed Glossary of technical terms and abbreviations at the end of this book

Free online resources

This book is published in conjunction with the following free online Answerbooks which provide comprehensive written answers to exercise examples, with detailed argumentation and evaluation of alternative

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analyses along with discussion of the theoretical implications of particular analyses:

- A *Students' Answerbook* providing a model answer for every exercise, together with a set of comprehensive written answers to all the self-study material in the Workbook modules of each chapter
- A *Teachers' Answerbook* providing comprehensive written answers to every single exercise example in the Workbook modules

The *Students' Answerbook* is available for readers to download for free at www.cambridge.org/analysingenglish. The *Teachers' Answerbook* can be downloaded for free by teachers, and can be accessed from a password-protected website at www.cambridge.org/analysingenglish.

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And a footnote from the Rolling Stones

In 1965, when I was an undergraduate at Trinity College Cambridge, the Rolling Stones released their hit single *The Last Time*. The chorus line goes like this:

Well this could be the last time
This could be the last time
Maybe the last time
I don't know, oh no, oh no

I've been publishing syntax books with Cambridge University Press since my *Italian Syntax* book way back in 1977. I've just celebrated my 77th birthday (in Morocco, with my wife's family) and there may simply not be enough time left for me to publish another (since writing another book

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and the accompanying answerbooks would take three years, and the publication process would take at least another year). So, this could indeed be my last ever book. If so, let me just say: it's been challenging for me writing them, and I hope it has been equally challenging for you reading them!