

An Introduction to English Sentence Structure

Second Edition

This new edition of Andrew Radford's outstanding resource for students is a step-by-step, practical introduction to English syntax and syntactic principles, written by a globally-renowned expert in the field. Assuming little or no prior background in syntax, Radford outlines key concepts and how they can be used to describe various aspects of English sentence structure. Each chapter contains core modules focusing on a specific topic, a summary recapitulating the main points of the chapter, and a bibliographical section providing extensive references to original source material. This edition has been extensively updated, with new analyses, new exercise materials, new references and a brand-new chapter on adjuncts. Students will benefit enormously from an extensive online *Workbook*, which contains a vast amount of exercise material for each module, and a *Students' Answerbook*, while teachers will value a comprehensive *Teachers' Answerbook*, and extensive presentation slides outlining the module contents and *Workbook* answers.

ANDREW RADFORD is currently Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at the University of Essex. He has written numerous textbooks on syntactic theory and English syntax for Cambridge University Press, including *Transformational Syntax* (1981), *Transformational Grammar* (1988), *Minimalist Syntax* (2004) and *Analysing English Sentences* (2009), as well as research monographs on syntax: *Colloquial English: Structure and Variation* (2018) and *Relative Clauses: Structure and Variation in Everyday English* (2019).

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ANDREW RADFORD

University of Essex



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This book is dedicated to you, my dear wife Khadija, in appreciation of the unstinting love, friendship, understanding and patience which you have shown over the past 40 years, in spite of having to put up with decades of authorial autism, monosyllabic mumbling, and vacational voids!

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Preface

Aims

This new edition is a substantial reworking of my book *An Introduction to English Sentence Structure*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2009. It aims to provide a beginner's introduction to:

- syntactic analysis
- how the syntactic component of a grammar works
- the type of argumentation used in contemporary work in syntax

It also aims to provide a description of a wide range of phenomena in English syntax, using concepts and constructs introduced in the book, and to give readers:

- hands-on experience of analysing specific phenomena through extensive exercise material in the *Workbook*
- an understanding of how data can be used to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of competing accounts of syntactic phenomena critically

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 resource for students working from home

Key Features

The book is intended to be suitable for people with little (if any) grammatical knowledge; it is aimed at intermediate undergraduates, or beginning graduates. It is not historicist or comparative in orientation, and does not presuppose knowledge of earlier or alternative models of grammar. It is explicitly designed as a *hands-on* introduction in which students get to do syntax for themselves, with extensive practice exercise materials provided in an online *Workbook*. Each chapter comprises half a dozen or so self-contained modules (each with its own set of accompanying exercises for students, and presentation slides and exercise answers for students and teachers), making it easier to 'skip' specific modules if so desired.

The book is intensive and progressive in nature, which means that it starts at an elementary level but gets progressively harder as the reader advances further into it. Successive chapters become cumulatively more complex, in that each chapter presupposes material covered in previous chapters while introducing new material, so it is helpful to return to material from earlier chapters every so often. Analyses presented in earlier sections are sometimes refined or revised in later sections or chapters, in the light of new concepts. The book is written in an approachable style and comprises six chapters, a detailed glossary of technical terms and abbreviations, a list of references, and an index. Each chapter contains:

- a brief overview of the topics dealt with in the chapter
- five or six core modules, each around a dozen pages in length and dealing with a specific topic
- a summary of the main points in the chapter and a list of key concepts and principles introduced in the chapter
- a set of bibliographical notes providing extensive references to original source materials

Free Online Resources

This book is published in conjunction with the following free online resources:

- an extensive *Workbook* containing a separate set of exercise material for each core module in each chapter: some of the exercise materials are for self-study, and others for class discussion or assignments. There are *helpful hints* and *model answers* for each exercise, designed to eliminate common errors that students make, and provide guidance on how to tackle the exercises
- a *Students' Answerbook* providing detailed written answers to all the self-study material in the *Workbook*
- a set of presentation slides for each core module which cover key points in the module, and show how to tackle some of the exercise material in the *Workbook*
- a comprehensive *Teachers' Answerbook*, providing detailed written answers to every single exercise example in the *Workbook*

The *Workbook* and *Students' Answerbook* are available for free download from Cambridge University Press at www.cambridge.org/ESS2. The *Teachers' Answerbook* and slides can be downloaded for free by teachers adopting the book as a coursebook, and can be accessed at www.cambridge.org/ESS2 when signed into a Cambridge user account.

Differences from the First Edition

Key features of the new edition which differentiate it from the first edition of the book that came out in 2009 are itemised below:

- in response to the observation by teachers and students that they they never manage to cover more than six chapters in their course, it now comprises six rather than nine chapters
- the *Workbook* and slides are *module-based* in the new edition (and not chapter-based as they were in the first edition), making it easier for students and teachers to cover one, two or more modules per teaching session (at their own pace), to check on progress at the end of each module (rather than at the end of each chapter), and to skip certain modules for reasons of time or existing student familiarity

The new edition has been extensively updated, with a *new chapter*, *new analyses*, *new exercise materials*, and *new references*. In particular:

- Chapter 3 is a new chapter on *adjuncts*, which were hardly touched on in the first edition, but have played a key role in much work in syntax and related areas
- it contains *more exercise materials* than its predecessor; instead of there being a couple of exercises at the end of each chapter (as in the first edition), there are now one or more exercises accompanying every single core module, so that students and teachers can monitor progress at the end of each module rather than at the end of each chapter
- Extensive online materials are now available for students and teachers to download for free.

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