

A Practical English Grammar

Fourth Edition

Thomson and Martinet's classic intermediate grammar for foreign learners is the most widely used book of its kind. It is popular because its explanations are clear and because it deals thoroughly with the topics which students find most difficult.

A Practical English Grammar has now been revised and reissued in a fourth edition. Some material has been rearranged to make it simpler for the reader to compare related topics. There is fresh or fuller treatment of many subjects, notably in the chapters on nouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, auxiliary verbs, the infinitive and the passive. A new index contains many more entries and now includes reference to every important structural word. These changes make *A Practical English Grammar* easier to consult and more informative than ever.

The following titles are recommended for use alongside this book.

*A Practical English Grammar:
Exercises 1 and 2*

*A Practical English Grammar:
Structure Drills 1 and 2*

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Fourth Edition

A. J. Thomson
A.V. Martinet

revised and updated!

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A.J. Thomson

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Preface to the fourth edition

A Practical English Grammar is intended for intermediate and post-intermediate students. We hope that more advanced learners and teachers will also find it useful.

The book is a comprehensive survey of structures and forms, written in clear modern English and illustrated with numerous examples. Areas of particular difficulty have been given special attention. Differences between conversational usage and strict grammatical forms are shown but the emphasis is on conversational forms.

In the fourth edition the main changes are as follows:

- 1 Explanation and examples have been brought up to date.
- 2 There is now more information on countable and uncountable nouns, attributive and predicative adjectives, adverbs of place, sentence adverbs, cleft sentences, prepositions, conjunctions, modal verbs, perfect tenses, infinitive constructions, the passive, purpose clauses and noun clauses.
- 3 Some material has been rearranged to make comparisons easier. For example, parts of chapters on *can*, *may*, *must* etc. are now grouped by function; verbs of liking and preference have a chapter to themselves; suggestions and invitations have joined the chapter on commands, requests and advice.
- 4 The contents list now summarizes every section heading, and there is a new index containing many more entries and references.

In this edition the sign '~' is frequently used to denote a change of speaker in examples of dialogue. Note also that although the sign '=' sometimes connects two words or expressions with the same meaning, it is often used more freely, e.g. to indicate a transformation from active to passive or direct to indirect speech.

We wish to thank all at Oxford University Press who have assisted in the preparation of the fourth edition. We would also like to thank Professor Egawa of Nihon University, Japan, Professor Rene' Dirven of Duisburg University, West Germany and other colleagues for their friendly and helpful suggestions.

London, November 1985

A.J.T., A.V.M.

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<i>undertake</i>	<i>undertook</i>	<i>undertaken</i>
<i>wake</i>	<i>waked/woke</i>	<i>waked/woken</i>
<i>wear</i>	<i>wore</i>	<i>worn</i>
<i>weave</i>	<i>wove</i>	<i>woven</i>
<i>weep</i>	<i>wept</i>	<i>wept</i>
<i>wet</i>	<i>wetted/wet</i>	<i>wetted/wet</i>
<i>will</i> †	<i>would</i>	—
<i>win</i>	<i>won</i>	<i>won</i>
<i>wind</i>	<i>wound</i>	<i>wound</i>
<i>wring</i>	<i>wrung</i>	<i>wrung</i>
<i>write</i>	<i>wrote</i>	<i>written</i>

†Present only.

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