

REVISITING GRAMMAR

Objectives

When you have finished this section, you will be able to

- identify errors and error types;
- increase written and oral accuracy;
- apply grammar conventions in speaking and writing;
- independently proofread and revise texts.

Resource List

- 1) Guide to Grammar & Writing:
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>
- 2) Purdue Online Writing Lab:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/>
- 3) Grammar Comics:
<http://grammarmancomic.com/comicsgman.html>
- 4) More Grammar Websites:
<http://www.myenglishteacher.eu/blog/english-grammar-9-websites-to-learn-and-practice-english-grammar/>
- 5) Good Tips on Grammar and Writing:
<http://prowritingaid.com/art/111/10-websites-to-help-improve-your-grammar.aspx#.Ua0xiUAwdho>

Key Concepts

- Grammar
- Language Use
- Grammar Conventions
(Appendix A gives more detailed explanations of various grammatical concepts.)

Procedure

Before Class

Familiarise yourself with the online resources related to language use in the Resource List above.

In class

1. In pairs or groups, share what you have learned in your English Language study so far about the grammar items in the list below. Use examples to demonstrate your understanding and to illustrate what you don't know.

For this activity, you might also use PowerPoint Presentations that illustrate the various grammar components. These are listed in the Resource List section of the website and are in the ***Grammar Focus IVLE PPT Lessons*** folder.

- Articles
- Connectors and Transitions
- Modals
- Nouns (e.g., Singular/Plural)
- Parallel Structures (or Parallelism)
- Prepositions
- Pronouns
- Run-on Sentences and Comma Splices
- Sentence Fragments
- Subject-verb Agreement
- Verb Forms
- Verb Tenses
- Word Forms

2. Review the feedback your tutor has given on your initial reflective essay. Make sure you understand *why* you made the mistakes you did as you rewrite this text and others during the course.

After class

1. Complete **Online Grammar Exercises (OGE)** whenever you can. The purpose of this is to reinforce your grammatical knowledge and text editing skills, particularly in identifying, classifying, and correcting errors.

See **OGE Instructions** for details.

2. Do **Text-editing Exercise 1**. Identify the errors, error types, and then make the corrections. Please discuss your answers in a small group.

At a later date, read **Text-editing Exercise 2** and do the same thing. Your tutor will give you instructions on completion dates.

3. Do **Authentic Essay Editing 1**. Identify the errors, error types, and then make the corrections. Please discuss this in a small group. At a later date, read **Essay 2** and do the same thing. Your tutor will give you instructions on completion dates.

Appendix A
Introduction to Grammar Items

Item	Notations used on student papers	Explanation/ Examples
Word Form	WF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A word can be a noun, adjective, adverb or verb Use affixes (prefixes and suffixes) to form the correct word form. For example, from the verb <i>disappoint</i>, the noun <i>disappointment</i> and the adverb <i>disappointedly</i> can be produced.
Noun	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular nouns are pluralized by the addition of -s. For example, <i>chairs</i>, one of the most important <i>factors</i> Uncountable nouns are singular in form. For example, <i>advice</i>, <i>luggage</i>, <i>information</i> Some nouns can be countable or uncountable, depending on the context, such as <i>cake</i>
Pronoun	Pron	<p>Examples of pronouns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>he, him, his</i> (personal pronouns) <i>this, that, these, those</i> (demonstrative pronouns) <i>who, which, that</i> (relative pronouns)
Article	Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definite article: the Indefinite article: a/an Zero article: Ø A/An are not used with uncountable nouns. For example, Would you like (some) homework?
Preposition	Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A preposition shows the relationship between the nouns, verbs, and adjectives in a sentence. Prepositions can be followed by gerunds. For example, I'm interested in <i>travelling</i>. Use online concordancers such as <i>lextutor.ca</i> to improve your knowledge.
Modal Verbs	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A modal verb, such as <i>can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might</i>, is used in a verb group to express possibility, intention, necessity, certainty and so on. For example, I <i>might go</i> to the library after class.

Verb Form	VF	<p>The forms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present (<i>take/takes</i>) • Past (<i>took</i>) • Past Participle (<i>taken</i>) • Present Participle (<i>taking</i>) • Infinitive (<i>take/ to take</i>)
Verb Tense	VT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tense</i> means the correspondence between the form of the verb and the concept of time. For example, <i>past, past perfect, past progressive/continuous, present perfect, future continuous</i> and so on.
Subject-Verb Agreement	SVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A verb agrees in number with its subject; errors can occur with long noun phrases and collective nouns. For example, <i>a vase of flowers makes</i> the room attractive.
Parallel Structures	II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parallel constructions are used to express a similarity or contrast between two or more related ideas. • Match nouns with nouns, adjectives with adjectives, phrases with phrases and clauses with clauses.
Sentence Fragment	SF	<p>A sentence fragment occurs when the sentence cannot stand on its own and does not contain an independent clause: subject-verb relationship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In Singapore during the British colonization</i> • <i>Studying hard till the early hours of the morning</i> • <i>For example, drugs and alcohol</i>
Connector & Transition	Con & T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectors, or transitions, help to signal relationships between ideas. Examples are <i>for, and, nor, but, or, yet, however</i> and so on. • They can indicate relationship from sentence to sentence, or paragraph to paragraph.
Run-on sentence & Comma splice	RO & CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run-on sentences contain two complete thoughts which are placed together with no punctuation, or connector/ transition to mark the break between them. For example, <i>I come from China I study at NUS.</i> • In comma splices, a comma is inappropriately used to connect two complete thoughts.