**WORLD ENGLISH INSTITUTE**

**Welcome to World English Institute**

WEI is a correspondence school that teaches English via the Internet. WEI teachers are native English-speaking Christian men and women who primarily live in the United States. WEI teachers volunteer their time to teach you because they believe that the God who created all human beings credits their service to you as service to Him.

The WEI course is conducted in English. It is written for students who have studied English for at least three years. The vocabulary and grammar studies range from late Elementary to early Intermediate levels. Beginners may find the course difficult. Advanced students will find it easy.  More advanced courses are available when you complete the Intermediate course.

Please read this Introductory lesson carefully and, when you are ready, take the Introductory test. Your answers will be recorded in your private "Dashboard" on this website after you press the submit button. One of WEI's teachers will grade your exam and return it with comments to your private "Dashboard." It may take up to one week before you have a teacher, and this exam is graded. Subsequent lessons will take less time to grade because your teacher will assist you through the entire course. This website is encrypted and password-protected, so only you, your teacher, and site administrators can access your assignments, grades, and messages.

You must score 40% or higher on the Introductory test to be accepted as a student. You may take the Introductory test as many times as you wish until you achieve a score of 40% or higher. Your teacher will place a grammar lesson and a reading assignment in your private "Dashboard" on this website.

Each time you complete a lesson, it will be graded by your teacher, who will determine if you are ready for the next lesson or if you need to repeat the current lesson until you have mastered it. There are 39 lessons in WEI’s Elementary Course, 21 lessons in WEI's Intermediate Course, 27 lessons in WEI’s Advanced Course and over 60 other supplemental lessons. You must average 60% or more on your exams to receive a certificate for that course.  You will receive a diploma when you complete the entire WEI curriculum.

Many students want to hear, understand, and speak English as well as to read and write the English language. If your computer, smartphone, or tablet is equipped for sound and your Internet connection has sufficient bandwidth, you can press play on the audio player embedded in the lesson to hear the Introductory lesson being read. If your browser supports play controls, you can right-click in the player to adjust the playback speed. If you download the recording and play it again and again while you practice pronouncing the words as you hear them, you can learn to speak English.

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**The Introductory Grammar Lesson**

In order to understand American English, a person must learn why Americans think as they do. From the beginning, American culture has been influenced by the Bible. Coins are stamped with the sentence, "In God we trust." The pledge of allegiance includes the phrase, "one nation under God." To understand American culture, a person must know something about the Bible, the Word of God. Therefore, WEI has used stories from the Easy-to-Read Version of the Bible to illustrate points of English grammar.

English grammar is the correct use of English words in sentences. It is the art of using the English language to express thoughts clearly and effectively. By studying grammar, we learn to connect words so that other people can understand what we say.

English grammar has two main divisions:**(1) The Parts of Speech, and  (2) The Sentence.**

**The Parts of Speech**

All words in the English language may be divided into eight main groups or "parts of speech": **nouns,  pronouns,  adjectives,  verbs,  adverbs,  prepositions,  conjunctions,** and **interjections.**

1. A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing, condition, feeling or event. There are  (a) **common nouns** and  (b) **proper nouns.** a. A **common noun** names any of a class of persons, places, things, conditions, feelings, or events.  Examples: boy, girl, city, state, country, mountain, river, love, joy, peace. A common noun never begins with a capital letter except at the beginning of a sentence or when used with a proper noun. Examples: Snake River, Lincoln Middle School.  b. A **proper noun** is the official name of a person, place, or thing. Examples: David, Mary, Dallas, Texas, Egypt, Everest, and Amazon. A proper noun always begins with a capital letter.
2. A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun.  Examples: I, you, he, she, it, we, they, them, this, that, these, those, who, which, what. Sentence: "***I*** love ***you***." The pronoun "I" is always capitalized.
3. An **adjective** is a word that describes or limits a noun or a pronoun.  Examples: a, an, the, one, my, our, your, her, his, its, their, red, big, good, evil, tall, short. Sentence: "Your mother is a ***good*** woman."
4. A **verb** is a word that expresses an **action** or **state of being**. Examples of **action verbs**are**run, walk, fly, teach, learn, eat, sleep, and** work. "They ***walk*** to school." **State of being verbs**: be, is, am, are, feel, appear, sound, seem. Sentence: "They ***are*** tall."
5. An **adverb** is a word that describes or limits a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.  Examples: then, today, now, tomorrow, soon, here, there, everywhere, quickly, beautifully, carefully, well, barely, nearly, completely. Sentence: "They walk ***quickly***."
6. A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship between a word that comes before it and a noun or pronoun that follows it. Examples: in, at, by, near, to, from, into, before, after, during, until, like. Sentence: "John ran ***to*** school."
7. A **conjunction** is a word that connects words, phrases, or clauses to one another.  Examples: and, but, yet. Sentence: "The son was hungry ***and*** needed money." The conjunction "and" links the first part of the sentence with the second part.
8. An **interjection** is a word or group of words used to express sudden and strong feelings.  Examples: Ah! Oh! Wow! Oh no! Sentence: "***Oh***! How I want to go home!"  By learning the eight parts of speech and their meanings, you have taken a big step toward mastering the English language.

**The Sentence**

Now let us look briefly at the second major division of English grammar, **The Sentence**. A **sentence** is a group of words joined together to express a complete thought.  Every sentence is made up of two main parts: (1) **the subject**, and  (2) the **predicate**. 1. The **subject** is the part of the sentence that tells who or what the sentence is about.  For example, "God is love." In this sentence, "God" is the subject. He is the person being discussed.

2. The **predicate** is the part of the sentence that tells what the subject is or does. The predicate always includes a verb. In the sentence above, "is love" is the predicate. That is what is said about God.

**Types of Sentences**

Sentences are divided into four classes according to the way they express a thought:  (1) **declarative**,  (2) **interrogative**,  (3) **imperative**, and  (4) **exclamatory**.

1. A **declarative sentence** makes a statement about something and ends with a period (.). Example: "A man had two sons."
2. An **interrogative sentence** asks a question and ends with a question mark (?).  Example: "What does all this mean?"
3. An **imperative sentence** makes a request or gives a command and ends with a period or an exclamation point (!). Examples: "Hurry!" "Bring our best calf and kill it so that we can celebrate."  In imperative sentences, "you" is understood: (You) bring our best calf."
4. An **exclamatory sentence** says something with force and emotion and ends with an exclamation point (!).  Example: "My son was dead, but now he is alive again!"

**Your Assignment**

Now, read the story of the son who left home. This is the world's most famous short story. It is found in the fifteenth chapter of the gospel of Luke, verses eleven through thirty-two (Luke 15:11-32). It is quoted from the Easy-to-Read Version of the Bible. After you read the story, please answer the questions on the Answer Sheet.

**Story of the Son Who Left Home**

A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Give me my part of all the things we own." So, the father divided his wealth with his two sons.

The younger son gathered up all that he had and left. He traveled far away to another country. There, he foolishly wasted his money. He spent everything that he had. Soon after that, the land became very dry, and there was no rain. There was not enough food to eat anywhere in the country. The son was hungry and needed money. So he went and got a job with one of the people of that country. The man sent the son into the field to feed pigs. The son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food that the pigs were eating. But no person gave him anything.

The boy realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, "All of my father's servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dead, because I have nothing to eat. I will leave and go to my father. I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am not good enough to be called your son. But let me be like one of your servants."

While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. The father felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him. He hugged and kissed his son. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am not good enough to be called your son."

"But the father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring the best clothes and dress him. Also, put a ring on his finger and good shoes on his feet. Bring the fat calf. We will kill it and have plenty to eat. Then, we can have a party. My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!" So they began to have a party.

The older son was in the field. He came closer to the house. He heard the sound of music and dancing. So the older son called to one of the servant boys and asked, 'What does all this mean?' The servant said, "Your brother has come back. Your father killed the fat calf to eat. Your father is happy because your brother came home safely."

The older son was angry and would not enter the party. So his father went out to ask him to come in. The son said to his father, "I have served you like a slave for many years. I have always obeyed your commands. But you never even killed a goat for me. You never gave a party for me and my friends. But your other son has wasted all your money on prostitutes. Then, he comes home, and you kill the fat calf for him!"

But the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me. All that I have is yours, too. We must be happy and have a party because your brother was dead, and now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found."'

**Application**

This famous story teaches us some important lessons about God and about ourselves.

1. People seek happiness in the wrong places. The younger son thought happiness was getting away from his father's control and being free to have fun. In the end, he was miserable because he was looking for happiness in the wrong places. People in today's world are making the same mistake. They are seeking happiness in money, drugs, alcohol, sex, thrills, education, power, fame, and beauty. But selfish living does not lead to joy. It leads to suffering and shame.

2. God loves us and does not want us to be ruined by evil. The younger son represents any person who turns away from God to seek fame, fortune, and pleasure. The father in the story represents God. When the younger son returned home, the father ran to meet him, hugged him, and kissed him tenderly. That means that God loves us. When we turn away from evil and come to God, he forgives us, welcomes us, and restores our dignity and honor.

**Comment**

In this Introductory Lesson, we have learned something about English, about ourselves, and about God. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the study.