

# GRAMMAR *in use*

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REFERENCE AND PRACTICE  
FOR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS  
OF ENGLISH

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with Roann Altman

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# INTRODUCTION

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*Grammar in Use* is a textbook for intermediate students of English who need to study and practice using the grammar of the language. It can be used as a classroom text or for self-study. It will be especially useful in cases where, in the teacher's view, existing course materials do not provide adequate coverage of grammar.

## Level

The book is intended mainly for intermediate students (that is, students who have already studied the basic structures of English). It concentrates on those structures which intermediate students want to use but which often cause difficulty. The book will probably be most useful at middle- and upper-intermediate levels (where all or nearly all of the material will be relevant), and can serve both as a basis for review and as a means of practicing new material. The book will also be useful for more advanced students who still make a lot of grammatical mistakes and who need a book for reference and practice.

The book is not intended to be used by beginning-level students.

## How the book is organized

The book consists of 124 units, each of which concentrates on a particular point of grammar. Some areas (for example, the present perfect or the use of articles) are covered in more than one unit. In each unit there are explanations and examples (left-hand page) and exercises (right-hand page), except for Unit 112, which is a double unit.

At the beginning of the book the *Contents* pages provide a full list of units, and there is a detailed *Index* at the end for easy reference.

There are also four *Appendixes* at the end of the book: "List of Present and Past Tenses," "Regular and Irregular Verbs," "Spelling," and "Short Forms." It might be useful for the teacher to draw students' attention to these.

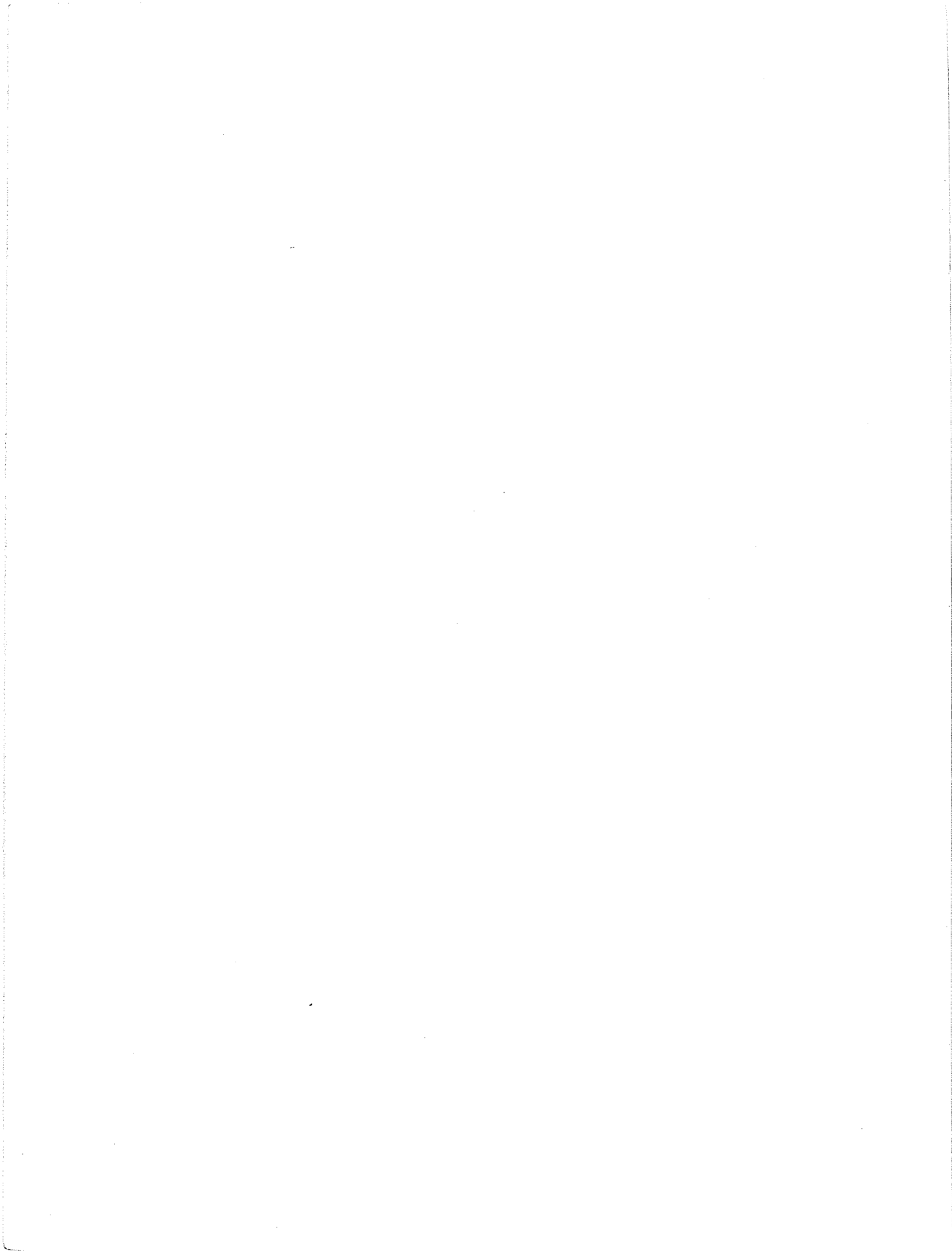
## Using the book

It is certainly not intended that anyone should work through this book from beginning to end. It is for the teacher to decide what to teach and in what order to teach it, so the book is best used selectively and flexibly.

The book can be used with the whole class or with individual students. When using the book with the whole class, it is suggested that teachers teach the grammar points concerned in whatever way they want. In this case the left-hand page is not used actively during the lesson but serves as a record of what has been taught and can be referred to by the student in the future. The exercises can then be done in class or as homework. Alternatively (and additionally), individual students can be directed to study certain units of the book by themselves if they have particular difficulties not shared by other students in their class.

## Answer Key

A separate answer key is available for teachers and self-study users.





## Grammar in Use

## Present continuous (I am doing)

**a** Study this example situation:

Ann is in her car. She is on her way to work.

She **is driving** to work.

This means: She is driving now, at the time of speaking.

This is the *present continuous* tense:

I	am	(= I'm)	} driving
he/she/(it)	is	(= he's, etc.)	
we/they/you	are	(= we're, etc.)	



We use the present continuous when we talk about something that is happening at the time of speaking:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm studying.** (*not I study*)
- "Where is Peggy?" "She's **taking** a bath." (*not she takes*)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** anymore.
- (*at a party*) Hello, Ann. **Are you enjoying** the party? (*not do you enjoy*)

**b** We also use the present continuous when we talk about something that is happening around the time of speaking, but not necessarily exactly at the time of speaking. Study this example situation:

- Tom and Ann are talking and having coffee in a cafe. Tom says: "**I'm reading** an interesting book at the moment. I'll lend it to you when I've finished it."

Tom is not reading the book at the time of speaking. He means that he has begun the book and hasn't finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it. Here are some more examples:

- Maria **is studying** English at a language school. (*not studies*)
- Have you heard about Brian? He **is building** his own house. (*not builds*)

But perhaps Maria and Brian are not doing these things exactly at the time of speaking.

**c** We often use the present continuous when we talk about a period around the present. For example: **today, this week, this season**, etc.:

- "You're **working** hard **today**." "Yes, I have a lot to do."
- Tom **isn't playing** football **this season**. He wants to concentrate on his studies.

**d** We use the present continuous when we talk about changing situations:

- The population of the world **is rising** very fast. (*not rises*)
- Is your English **getting** better? (*not does . . . get*)

# UNIT 1 Exercises

## 1.1 Put the verb into the correct form.

Examples: Please don't make so much noise. I *am studying*..... (study).  
Let's go out now. It *isn't raining*..... (not/rain) anymore.  
Listen to those people. What language *are they speaking*.. (they/speak)?

1. Please be quiet. I ..... (try) to concentrate.
2. Look! It ..... (snow).
3. Why ..... (you/look) at me like that? Did I say something wrong?
4. You ..... (make) a lot of noise. Can you be a little bit quieter?
5. Excuse me, I ..... (look) for a phone booth. Is there one near here?
6. (*at the movies*) It's a good movie, isn't it? ..... (you/enjoy) it?
7. Listen! Can you hear those people next door? They ..... (yell) at each other again.
8. Why ..... (you/wear) your coat today? It's very warm.
9. I ..... (not/work) this week. I'm on vacation.
10. I want to lose weight. I ..... (not/eat) anything today.

## 1.2 Complete these sentences using one of these verbs:

**get    become    change    rise    improve    fall    increase**

*You don't have to use all the verbs and you can use some of them more than once.*

Example: The population of the world *is rising*..... very fast.

1. The number of people without jobs ..... at the moment.
2. He is still sick, but he ..... better slowly.
3. These days food ..... more and more expensive.
4. The world ..... Things never stay the same.
5. The cost of living ..... Every year things are more expensive.
6. George has gone to work in Spain. At first, his Spanish wasn't very good, but now it .....
7. The economic situation is already very bad, and it ..... worse.

## 1.3 Read this conversation between Brian and Steve. Put each verb into the correct form.

Brian and Steve meet in a restaurant.

Brian: Hello, Steve. I haven't seen you for ages. What (1) *are you doing*..... (you/do) these days?

Steve: I (2) ..... (work) in a department store.

Brian: Really? (3) ..... (you/enjoy) it?

Steve: Yeah, it's OK. How about you?

Brian: Well, I (4) ..... (not/work) at the moment, but I'm very busy.

I (5) ..... (build) a house.

Steve: Really? (6) ..... (you/do) it alone?

Brian: No, some friends of mine (7) ..... (help) me.