

BIRGER ANDERSEN

BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR

2.UDGAVE

Forlaget Samfundslitteratur

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2. udgave, 2. oplag 2009
E-bog 2016

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Omslag: Sofie M Grafik
Sats og tryk: Narayana Press
E-bog produktion: PHi Business Solutions Ltd. (Chandigarh, India)

Trykt bog ISBN: 978-87-593-1206-3
E-bog ISBN: 978-87-593-2765-4

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Undtaget herfra er korte uddrag til anmeldelse.

Preface

This book on English grammar is basic in the sense that it assumes only the most fundamental knowledge of grammatical analysis and grammatical terminology on the part of the reader. It will therefore be useful for anyone with only a limited knowledge of English grammar.

The book is however primarily intended for students who have been taught aspects of English grammar in primary and secondary school, but need to refresh their knowledge of English grammar and organise it into a systematic and coherent understanding of grammatical structures. The book is thus intended as a textbook for introductory courses in English grammar at business colleges, colleges of education, business schools and universities.

The primary aim of the grammar is to make students aware of the systematic and rule-governed nature of language. Thus, sentence analysis features heavily in that about half of the book is devoted to this aspect of grammar. At various places, competing views on specific aspects of sentence analysis and other grammatical phenomena are highlighted to encourage students to think about grammar.

This book has its origin in a series of lectures on sentence analysis I gave to first-year language and communication students at the Aarhus School of Business in 2001. Over the next couple of years, the manuscripts for these lectures developed into an English grammar compendium (with chapters on the major word classes added), which was tried out as a textbook by some of my colleagues in the autumn semester of 2003. The responses I received from them led me to believe that the compendium might have a chance as an English grammar textbook (with chapters on usage problems added).

I would like to thank these colleagues, who provided me with very valuable feedback, which improved the text considerably.

I am particularly grateful to two of my present colleagues at the Aarhus School of Business, Lone Albrecht and Annemarie Backmann,

and a former colleague of mine, Niels Hald, who all read the first version of the manuscript. Without their constructive comments and criticism, I doubt that this book would have seen the light of day. The responsibility for any remaining omissions, inconsistencies, misprints and the like rests of course entirely with me.

July, 2004
Birger Andersen

Preface to the Second Edition

In this second edition of Basic English Grammar, a couple of unfortunate errors in the first edition have been corrected, but the main incentive for a second edition has come from a number of very valuable suggestions for improvements and additions from students and colleagues who have used the grammar as an introductory textbook over the past couple of years. Students in particular will welcome the most important addition to the first edition, namely the index of grammatical terms to be found at the end of the book.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those students and colleagues who have contributed so much to this improved edition of Basic English Grammar.

November 2005
Birger Andersen