High School

English Grammar & Composition

Wren & Martin

by

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(An imprint of S. Chand Publishing)
Wren and Martin's monumental work *High School English Grammar and Composition* is available in two editions. One is a multicolour illustrated edition, and the other is a regular edition without illustrations. The material in the book has been further updated where called for. It has been felt necessary in particular to revise some material in the chapters dealing with adjectives, active and passive voice, articles and prepositions.

It was in the year 1972 that the shrewd visionary Mr Shyam Lal Gupta obtained the permission of Manecji Cooper Education Trust for the revision of this book and commissioned me to revise it thoroughly. The revised edition came out in 1973 and was well received. One of the main features of the revised edition was the addition of a great deal of new material (such as the three chapters on structures) based on the new developments in the study of English structure and usage. Subsequently the book was revised every four or five years and most extensively in 1999.

Unlike many traditional grammar books, the book in the present form helps the student to use the language as well as giving detailed information about the language. It provides ample guidance and practice in sentence building, correct usage, comprehension, composition and other allied areas so as to equip the student with the ability to communicate effectively in English.

It is gratifying to learn that this classic work, though primarily intended for use in the Indian subcontinent, is also used in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius, etc. It is hoped that the book will be found useful in many more countries where English is used as a second or foreign language.

Dr N.D.V. Prasada Rao
## Contents

**Book 1. Grammar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTERS</th>
<th>PAGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. THE SENTENCE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. SUBJECT AND PREDICATE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. THE PHRASE AND THE CLAUSE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. PARTS OF SPEECH</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. THE NOUN: KINDS OF NOUNS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. THE NOUN: GENDER</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. THE NOUN: NUMBER</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. THE NOUN: CASE</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. THE ADJECTIVE</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. ADJECTIVES USED AS NOUNS</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. POSITION OF THE ADJECTIVES</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. THE CORRECT USE OF SOME ADJECTIVES</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. ARTICLES</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. PERSONAL PRONOUNS</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. REFLEXIVE AND EMPHATIC PRONOUNS</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. DEMONSTRATIVE, INDEFINITE AND DISTRIBUTIVE PRONOUNS</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. RELATIVE PRONOUNS</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. THE VERB: TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. VERBS OF INCOMPLETE PREDICATION</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. MOOD</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. TENSES: INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. THE USES OF THE PRESENT AND PAST TENSES</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. THE FUTURE</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. THE VERB: PERSON AND NUMBER</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. THE INFINITIVE</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. THE PARTICIPLE</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. THE GERUND</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. IRREGULAR VERBS</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. AUXILIARY AND MODALS</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. CONJUGATION OF THE VERB LOVE</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. THE ADVERB</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. COMPARISON OF ADVERBS</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. FORMATION OF ADVERBS</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. POSITION OF ADVERBS</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. THE PREPOSITION</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. WORDS FOLLOWED BY PREPOSITIONS</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. THE CONJUNCTION</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. SOME CONJUNCTIONS AND THEIR USES</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. THE INTERJECTION</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. THE SAME WORD USED AS DIFFERENT PARTS OF SPEECH</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# PART I: ANALYSIS, TRANSFORMATION AND SYNTHESIS

1. **ANALYSIS OF SIMPLE SENTENCES**  ...  147-155  
   Exercises 1-7  ...  147  
2. **PHRASES**  ...  155-160  
   Adjective Phrases  ...  155  
   Exercises 8-12  ...  155  
   Adverb Phrases  ...  156  
   Exercises 13-19  ...  157  
   Noun Phrases  ...  159  
   Exercises 20-22  ...  159  
3. **CLAUSES**  ...  160-165  
   Adverb Clauses  ...  160  
   Exercises 23-26  ...  160  
   Adjective Clauses  ...  162  
   Exercises 27-30  ...  162  
   Noun Clauses  ...  163  
   Exercises 31-36  ...  163  
4. **SENTENCES: SIMPLE, COMPOUND AND COMPLEX**  ...  166-167  
   Exercise 37  ...  167  
5. **MORE ABOUT NOUN CLAUSES**  ...  167-169  
   Exercises 38-39  ...  169  
6. **MORE ABOUT ADJECTIVE CLAUSES**  ...  169-171  
   Exercises 40-42  ...  171  
7. **MORE ABOUT ADVERB CLAUSES**  ...  171-177  
   Adverb Clauses of Time  ...  172  
   Exercise 43  ...  172  
   Adverb Clauses of Place  ...  172  
   Exercise 44  ...  172  
   Adverb Clauses of Purpose  ...  172  
   Exercise 45  ...  173  
   Adverb Clauses of Cause or Reason  ...  173  
   Exercise 46  ...  173  
   Adverb Clauses of Condition  ...  173  
   Exercise 47  ...  173  
   Adverb Clauses of Result and Consequence  ...  174  
   Exercise 48  ...  174  
   Adverb Clauses of Comparison  ...  174  
   Exercises 49-50  ...  175  
   Adverb Clauses of Supposition or Concession  ...  175  
   Exercise 51-55  ...  175  
8. **ANALYSIS OF COMPLEX SENTENCES**  (Clause Analysis)  ...  177-180  
   Exercise 56  ...  179  
9. **ANALYSIS OF COMPOUND SENTENCES**  (Clause Analysis)  ...  180-183  
   Exercise 57  ...  182  
   Exercise 58 (Miscellaneous)  ...  182  
10. **TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES**  ...  183-189  
   Sentences Containing the Adverb ‘too’  ...  183  
   Exercise 59  ...  183  
   Interchange of the Degrees of Comparison  ...  184  
   Exercise 60  ...  184  
   Interchange of Active and Passive Voice  ...  184  
   Exercises 61-63  ...  185
Interchange of Affirmative and Negative Sentences  
Exercises 64-65  
... 186
Interchange of Interrogative and Assertive Sentences  
Exercises 66-67  
... 187
Interchange of Exclamatory and Assertive Sentences  
Exercises 68-69  
... 188
Interchange of One Part of Speech for Another  
Exercise 70  
... 189

11. TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES (Contd.)  
Conversion of Simple Sentences to Compound (Double) Sentences  
Exercises 71-72  
... 189
Conversion of Compound (Double) Sentences to Simple Sentences  
Exercises 73-74  
... 190
Conversion of Simple Sentences to Complex  
Exercises 75-78  
... 192
Conversion of Complex Sentences to Simple Sentences  
Exercises 79-82  
... 194
Conversion of Compound Sentences to Complex  
Exercises 83-84  
... 198
Conversion of Complex Sentences to Compound  
Exercises 85-86  
... 199
Exercise 87 (Miscellaneous)  
... 200

12. SYNTHESIS OF SENTENCES  
Combination of Two or More Simple Sentences into a Single Simple Sentence  
Exercises 88-93  
... 201
Exercise 94 (Miscellaneous)  
... 204

13. SYNTHESIS OF SENTENCES (Contd.)  
Combination of Two or More Simple Sentences into a Single Compound Sentence  
Exercise 95  
... 206

14. SYNTHESIS OF SENTENCES (Contd.)  
Combination of Two or More Simple Sentences into a Single Complex Sentence  
Exercises 96-100  
... 208
Exercise 101  
... 209

15. THE SEQUENCE OF TENSES  
Exercises 101-103  
... 214

16. DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH  
Exercises 104-109  
... 217

17. AGREEMENT OF THE VERB WITH THE SUBJECT  
Exercise 110  
... 224

18. NOUNS AND PRONOUNS  
Exercises 111-114  
... 227

19. ADJECTIVES  
... 228-230

20. VERBS  
Exercise 115  
... 233

21. ADVERBS  
Exercise 116  
... 235

22. CONJUNCTIONS  
... 235

23. ORDER OF WORDS  
Exercises 117-118  
... 237

24. IDIOMS  
... 238-242

25. IDIOMS (Contd.)  
... 242-250

26. PUNCTUATION  
... 250-256

PART II: CORRECT USAGE
27. SPELLING RULES ... 254
28. THE FORMATION OF WORDS ... 256-257
  Exercises 123-124 ... 259
29. FIGURES OF SPEECH ... 269-274
  Exercise 125 ... 274

PART III: STRUCTURES

30. VERB PATTERNS ... 275-281
  Exercise 126 ... 281
31. QUESTION TAGS, SHORT ANSWERS, ETC. ... 281-284
  Exercises 127-130 ... 283
32. MORE STRUCTURES ... 284-288
  Exercise 131 ... 288

PART IV: WRITTEN COMPOSITION

33. PARAGRAPH-WRITING ... 289-292
  Introductory Remarks ... 289
  Principles ... 289
  Examples ... 290
  The Writing of Single Paragraphs ... 291
  Exercise 132 ... 292
34. STORY-WRITING ... 292-295
  Introductory Remarks ... 292
  Hints ... 292
  Specimen ... 293
  Exercise 133 ... 294
35. REPRODUCTION OF A STORY-POEM ... 295-299
  Introductory Remarks ... 295
  Hints ... 295
  Specimens ... 295
  Exercise 134 ... 298
36. LETTER-WRITING ... 299-322
  Introductory Remarks ... 299
  The Form of Letters ... 299
  Classification of Letters ... 301
  Social Letters ... 301
  Friendly Letters ... 301
  Exercise 135 ... 303
  Exercise 136 ... 306
  Exercises 137-139 ... 308
  Exercises 140-141 ... 312
  Notes of Invitations ... 313
  Business Letters ... 314
  Exercise 142 ... 317
  Further Letters of Application ... 317
  Exercise 143 ... 318
  Official Letters ... 318
  Exercise 144 ... 319
  Letters to Newspapers ... 320
  Exercise 145 ... 320
  Exercise 146 ... 321
37. COMPREHENSION ... 322-331
  Introductory Remarks ... 322
  Specimen ... 322
  Exercise 147 ... 323
38. PRECIS-WRITING ... 332-342
  Introductory Remarks ... 332
  Uses of Precis-Writing ... 332
Method of Procedure .............................................. 332
To Sum Up ............................................................ 335
Specimens ............................................................. 335
Exercise 148 ........................................................... 336

39. EXPANSION OF PASSAGES .................................. 343-345
   Introductory Remarks .......................................... 343
   Method of Procedure .......................................... 343
   Specimens ........................................................ 343
   Exercise 149 ........................................................ 345

40. ESSAY-WRITING ................................................. 345-356
   Introductory Remarks ......................................... 345
   Characteristics of a Good School Essay ..................... 346
   Classification of Essays ....................................... 346
   Hints on Essay-Writing ........................................ 347
   Method of Collecting Materials ............................... 349
   Bare Outline ....................................................... 350
   Full Outline ........................................................ 350
   Writing the Essay ................................................. 350
   Exercises 150-151 ................................................ 356

41. AUTOBIOGRAPHIES ............................................. 356-358
   Introductory Remarks ......................................... 356
   Specimens ........................................................ 356
   Exercises 152-154 ................................................ 357

42. DIALOGUE-WRITING ............................................ 358-364
   Introductory Remarks ......................................... 358
   Method of Procedure ......................................... 358
   Special Hints ..................................................... 359
   Specimens ........................................................ 359
   Exercises 155-162 ................................................ 362

43. THE APPRECIATION OF POETRY ............................. 364-374
   Introductory Remarks ......................................... 364
   Specimens ........................................................ 370
   Exercise 163 ........................................................ 371

44. PARAPHRASING .................................................. 374-384
   Introductory Remarks ......................................... 374
   Uses of Paraphrasing .......................................... 374
   Characteristics of a Good Paraphrase ....................... 375
   The Paraphrase of Poetry ..................................... 377
   Special Hints ..................................................... 378
   Method of Procedure ......................................... 379
   Specimens ........................................................ 379
   Exercise 164 ........................................................ 381

An authentic and useful solution of this book entitled. “A Key to Wren and Martin’s High School English Grammar and Composition” is also available.
CHAPTER 1: THE SENTENCE

1. When we speak or write we use words. We generally use these words in groups; as,
   Little Jack Horner sat in a corner.
   A group of words like this, which makes complete sense, is called a Sentence.

Kinds of Sentences

2. Sentences are of four kinds:
   (1) Those which make statements or assertions; as,
       Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
   (2) Those which ask questions; as
       Where do you live?
   (3) Those which express commands, requests, or entreaties; as,
       Be quiet.
       Have mercy upon us.
   (4) Those which express strong feelings; as,
       How cold the night is!
       What a shame!

A sentence that makes a statement or assertion is called a Declarative or Assertive sentence.
A sentence that asks a question is called an Interrogative sentence.
A sentence that expresses a command or an entreaty is called an Imperative sentence.
A sentence that expresses strong feeling is called an Exclamatory sentence.

CHAPTER 2: SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

3. When we make a sentence:
   (1) We name some person or thing; and
   (2) Say something about that person or thing.
   In other words, we must have a subject to speak about and we must say or predicate something about that subject.
   Hence every sentence has two parts:
   (1) The part which names the person or thing we are speaking about. This is called the Subject of the sentence.
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