

Grammatical and Lexical features of English

1. Prescriptive and Descriptive Grammar

Which of the following would be criticised in a prescriptive grammar approach but quite acceptable following a descriptive grammar logic?

- What are you looking at?
- We must better understand the problem.
- The law was changed recently.
- Only when the law was passed did the real effects become evident.

2. Word Origins

What is the linguistic origin of most irregular verbs in English?

- Latin
- French
- Celtic
- Anglo-Saxon

3. Aspect Mood Voice Condition

Which of the following shows the progressive aspect?

- We have been working for 3 hours.
- We have worked for 3 hours.
- We will have finished in 3 hours.
- We hadn't worked for 3 hours.

4. Forms of the Future

Which of the following expresses a reference to the future?

- The law comes into force at the end of the month.
- If the law were changed, there would be less need for interpretation.
- Having said that, we will have to see how the situation develops.
- If you will sit down, we can discuss your case in detail.

5. Modality

Which of the following exhibits primarily epistemic modality?

- We may do the test tomorrow.
- Can I do the test tomorrow?
- I wish I could do the test tomorrow.
- I must not do the test tomorrow.

6. Word Order

Which of the following shows less standard word order?

- Never before have there been so many accusations of malpractice.
- What malpractice is is not very clear.
- It is malpractice that needs to be addressed.
- Malpractice often is not addressed as it should be.

7. Linguistic Devices

What is a collocation?

- An indication of the correct position of terms in a sentence?
- The standard combination of terms in a sentence.
- A culturally-bound term.
- An idiomatic or metaphoric expression.

8. Articles

In which of these sentences is the definite article (the) not required?

- The life expectancy of people in this region is very high.
- The life expectancy is generally very high.
- Life expectancy of people in the region is very high.
- Life expectancy of the people here is generally high.

9. Sentence structure and Connectors

Which of these sentences shows a comma splice?

- The cat is on the mat, but the dog is on the table.
- The cat is on the mat, although the dog is on the table.
- The cat is on the mat, the dog is on the table.
- The cat is on the mat; the dog is on the table.

10. Legalese

Which of the following terms is now considered 'legalese'?

- The two parties, hereinunder A and B, ...
- A is the proprietor, while B is the purchaser
- This clause stipulates ...
- The proprietor must settle all relevant costs by the due date.