

**UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University**  
**Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)**  
**Daily English Practice**

Week 2

**#109 How to learn grammar**

**Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing Skills**

**PART 1: Before you read...**

**Preparatory questions**

Qt 1: What is grammar? Can you find a simple definition from the text quoted below.

Qt 2. How does reading English books help us improve our grammar?

Qt 3. As mentioned by the writer, learning English by doing grammar exercises can be an unhelpful mechanical process. What is the way to make best use of doing grammar exercises?

Answers to the above questions will be provided in the next set of exercises.

**Vocabulary**

- mother tongue: The first language a person learns since birth.
- concordance: A book or document providing an alphabetical index of the words used in a book or a writer's work.

**PART 2: Article for Reading**

In the text provided by Frankfurt International School found at the following link, you will read information about the real function and value of grammar. You may start to like learning grammar after reading it if you still do not at present:

How to Learn Grammar  
<http://esl.fis.edu/learners/advice/gram.htm>

**PART 3: Speaking Skills Practice**

How do you say the following common sentence found in the text?

Read a lot of English books.

Do you say it as patterns (a) or (b) below?

- (a) Read – a – lot – of ...
- (b) Read – a – lotof ...

While pattern (a) is a perfectly correct way of uttering the sentence, pattern (b) is very common. It also makes your sentence fluent and easy to say. This is called “linking” in speaking which means the blending of syllables across words for smooth pronunciation. The effect is that it makes adjacent words join together in speaking as if they were parts of one longer word.

You cannot apply “linking” in speaking every sentence; otherwise, your speech becomes unintelligible. But it is a good idea to apply it to a few short phrases. Some of the common ones we often say in every life are as follows:

- The (bookis) good. (book – is)
- (Thereare) two men coming. (there – are)
- How (sweetof) you to do this! (sweet – of)

Can you think of two more examples of “linking” on your own?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PART 4: Listening Comprehension**

Listen to the following video posted on You Tube to learn useful tips for improving your English Grammar:

How to improve English Grammar  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5uz6LWELPM>

#### **PART 5: Writing Practice**

**Write a short response to the following question:**

The writer says in the passage: “Others hate grammar and think it is the most boring part of learning a new language.”

Should you put the word as “boring” or “bored”? This is a common question asked by students.

The answer is certain. It must be “boring”. Although both are adjectives, their meanings differ in precise terms. “Boring” describes something, e.g. a movie, which is not interesting. “Bored” describes a person who has been made unhappy by something boring.