

# Grammar

The majority of Community ESOL participants have been living in this country for more than 5 years; many have acquired functional communication skills without any formal training in sentence structure or grammar.

Level 2 speakers were unable to :

- identify the verb in a sentence
- differentiate between nouns and verbs
- replace a noun with the correct personal pronoun
- recognise that 'be' 'is' 'are' 'were' are parts of the same verb

As a result their comprehension skills were poor in comparison with their speaking skills, and their ability to write correctly was limited to very simple sentences.

Grammar was identified as a key area for development under the Community ESOL project. Grammar Sheets have been produced for use in mixed level community groups, providing practice of essential grammatical structures using key topic vocabulary. The thinking behind the Grammar Sheets is this:

- All English speakers need to grasp the basic points of English grammar.
- Advanced grammar can only be learnt by those who already understand the basics.
- Many British residents have learnt to speak without ever learning the basics.
- Advanced students often need very basic grammar lessons.

For these reasons, very basic grammar is taught and reinforced to all students.

Grammar Sheets are linked to topics in the Scheme of Work, but most sheets stand alone for use as and when the teacher feels they are appropriate to the level and needs of the group.

The Grammar Sheets are not intended for Entry Level 1 students. They cover all the key grammatical structures required by the ESOL National Curriculum to support the national standards and level descriptors at Entry Level 1, because that is the level of grammar required by the Community ESOL group participants. However, some of the sheets include advanced vocabulary items and details which are not introduced to complete beginners. It is for the teacher to judge which sheets can be used with a particular group. Community Group teaching includes an element of 'learning support' as the more advanced students translate and explain to those who cannot understand the teacher. As a result it is possible to use a range of materials at different levels, and expose all students to a broader language sample.

It is felt that the grammar preparation included in the Community ESOL materials should be repeated regularly for students from non-European language bases, to reinforce the structures which are particularly difficult for them to adopt. It is important to correct the learners' grammar as their key language skills improve. This is especially true if they hope to use English in their work, as writing competence and qualifications will remain forever beyond their scope if they do not have a basic understanding of English grammar.

[Link to Grammar Sheets](#)