

**Frequently Asked
Questions on English
Grammar
and Vocabulary by Iranian
Learners with Their
Answers**

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Editors' Preface

English students around the world face a very difficult challenge: Understanding and using an old, complex language that has borrowed from every other language. English has many dialects, and they borrow from one another. Young English speakers use a dialect different from their grandparents' English. Even "Standard English" has different dialects (Australian, British, Canadian, American, South African).

This book should be a great help to students, because it deals with real grammar and usage problems that arise in almost every English dialect. Native English speakers face these problems too. But they rarely get the kind of practical advice offered here. It has been a pleasure to edit this book, and to see how well the authors have handled students' questions. We hope students find it as useful as we have.

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Thanks are also due to our colleagues for their useful comments and suggestions and to all students involved in this project for their cooperation. We are also grateful to Mr Mohammad Kazem Khaksar for the help he gave us in typing most of the book.

Introduction

The purpose of this book

English grammar and vocabulary are certainly worthy of intensive study, especially for those just learning English. Grammar provides us with the foundation, on which we build our language. Because there are so many exceptions in English grammar, it is an especially difficult language to learn. A thorough knowledge of grammar will help students learn the rules (and the exceptions) that will make their use of English more precise.

Vocabulary is also very important. The best way to learn vocabulary is through wide and frequent reading. We tell our students to read everything -- comic books, newspaper editorials, toothpaste tubes, as well as a variety of books and magazines, of course. There are also many good vocabulary practice books that will help students learn roots of words, and prefixes and suffixes. These "parts" of words can help students build new words to determine their meaning.

In teaching English grammar and vocabulary to Iranian students, we noticed that the students asked the same questions over and over. Although not comprehensive, this

book is designed as a resource for both students and teachers of the English language. In writing this book, we asked 500 pupils at different levels of proficiency to write their questions down and send them to us. We also asked 50 English language teachers at junior high schools, high schools, and different language institutes and universities to send us the most frequently asked questions by their students concerning grammar and vocabulary.

Levels

This guide is mostly intended for intermediate and advanced students; however, it can be fruitful for beginners as well. Teachers of English can also use this book. It contains information at various levels, ranging from relatively simple questions to quite advanced points.

Organization

We have tried to give a clear, complete treatment of each question. Questions are arranged alphabetically to show where each point can be found.

How to use this guide

This book helps you use words, expressions and grammar points correctly. The examples provided reinforce the meaning and syntax and show you how vocabulary and grammar are used in the context. Although

not comprehensive, this guide can be used by Iranian English learners and teachers.

The answers to the questions will be useful to students who have made a mistake and want to find out why it is wrong, and to teachers who are looking for a clear explanation of a difficult point of grammar or vocabulary. The way to find a point is to look in the list of questions at the beginning of the book. If you do not find the FAQ/s on the vocabulary and grammar immediately, the index will help you locate it more quickly.

And finally since we are human beings and human beings are fallible, we would appreciate those readers who study this guide and mention the problems to authors. Therefore, the writers can produce a more infallible book in the upcoming years. You can also send emails to avand@usa.com, or Aminkarimnia@yahoo.com.