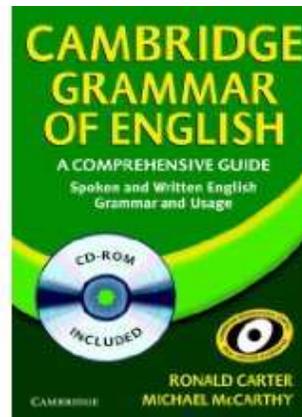


**Book review
on**



Cambridge Grammar of English Hardback with CD ROM: A Comprehensive Guide
by Ronald Carter
Edition: Hardcover
Price: \$69.29

“A new vision in contemporary grammar and usage”

Very recently I took up a new venture where I happen to see the learners have got a good amount of English knowledge in traditional grammar. However, most frequently they feel my explanatory examples in grammar aren't appealing, interesting and merely repetitive. Hence, to make grammar classroom lively and interestingly I had purchased numerous books, among those books, I preferably go for the "Cambridge Grammar of English" for the following beneficial reasons:

1. Usage and acceptability

Grammar is concerned with acceptable and unacceptable forms and the distinctions of meaning these forms create. So, unacceptable sentences shown with a line through the text in CGE:

I just ignored it. I think everybody else did as well.

~~I just ignored it. As well I think everybody else did.~~

Besides, issues of acceptability are never far from the surface when there is reference to what is standard in grammar or in language use in general. In this book, the following main categories of British English are adopted:

- Unacceptable in standard written English but acceptable in standard spoken English
- Unacceptable in standard written and spoken English but acceptable in many regional varieties of English ; such forms are not included in the main description in this book, and are simply referred to occasionally

2. Prescriptive approach

A prescriptive approach to grammar is based on the idea that some forms are more 'correct' or more associated with 'good usage' than others. Prescriptive rules are often social rules that are believed to mark out a speaker or writer as educated or as belonging to a particular social class. Examples of prescriptive rules are:

Do not use go on/off for get on/off:

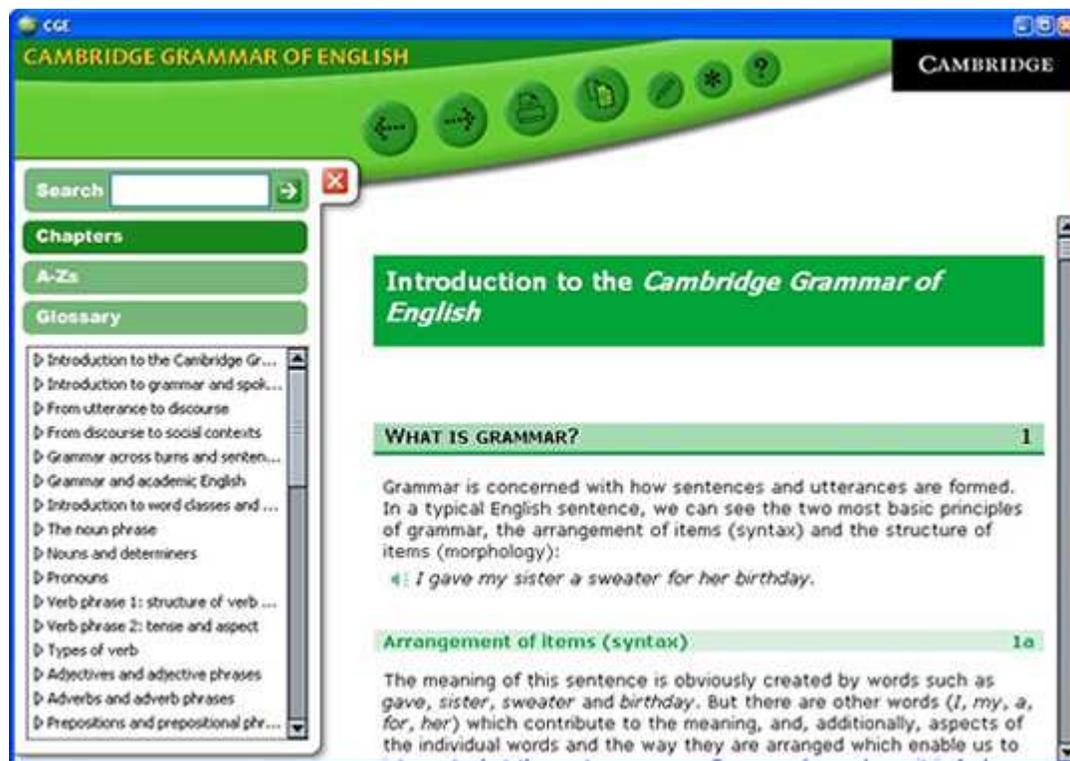
(e.g. Do not say he put his newspaper down and went off the train at the next station; say he put his newspaper down and got off the train at the next station)

Examples are given throughout the book of contexts of use in which prescriptive rules do or do not apply, where this is useful to language learners.

3. Grammar and the spoken language

The spoken language has been downgraded and has come to be regarded as relatively inferior to written manifestations. Both in the teaching and learning of first, second and foreign languages, and in educational institutions and society in general. Speaking skills are normally less highly valued, with linguistics expertise being equated almost exclusively with a capacity to read and write. This book draws

for its example of spoken English on the CAN CODE corpus. The CANCODE corpus is a collection of everyday informal spoken texts which provides very useful evidence of significance structures, especially as they are found in spontaneous, unplanned, conversational usage. Although the corpus has not been systematically coded for phonetic features and features of intonation, this book has an accompanying CD-ROM in which key sentences, conversational exchanges and patterns of use can be listened to. Here is the CD-ROM and by click on speaker symbol one can listen the sentence.



Besides, this book has got numerous advantages and however, it has a few things to be taken care of the publisher side :

- 1) It is a large and heavy book with soft bounded
- 2) It is not available locally
- 3) Paperback is nice and cheaper but I'm not sure how it will hold with a lot of use

Further , "Cambridge Grammar of English" had the answers I needed and clearly explained . For example, many teachers had trouble with how to teach 'common errors in English' on a course. Cambridge deals nicely with this. It gives several examples and it is possible to compare (correct and incorrect sentences or forms) them to understand the differences. Besides, this book is an excellent resource for upper intermediate and advanced level students, especially those who take TOEFL, GRE,

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BOOK REVIEW ON CAMBRIDGE GRAMMAR OF ENGLISH

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CAT and Cambridge exams. For Engineering students : I always carry (literally) about 3 books with me to teach English grammar (something that explains how to use adverbs , prepositions and so on) or for general references in grammar, among those three this book is a good and an excellent one. Because it is a well organized reference, the chapters are divided with headings, titles, and numbers. These dividers, columns, headings etc are far superior to any other systems in the books I have. This makes it extremely easy to find what we are looking for and saves a lot of time.

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