

Exercise 1b (answers on p. 199)*Classification of sentences*

All of the following sentences have something 'wrong' with them. Try to work out whether each is:

- A ungrammatical in the sense that it does not follow a rule observable in the language behaviour of native speakers of English;
- B 'bad etiquette' from the point of view of prescriptive grammar (see 1.2); or
- C 'bad style' in the sense that it does not communicate effectively.
- I can recommend this candidate for the post for which he applies with complete confidence.
 - I ain't going nowhere tonight.
 - We need more comprehensive schools.
 - To was or not to was, that be the ask.
 - There lives the dearest freshness deep down things.
 - How are you, it has a long time that we don't have heard from you again.
 - I gave him the present that I had bought in the shop in which I had met the man to whose house I went yesterday.
 - Hm and me are going to the beach today.
 - Eggs should be stamped with the date when they are laid by the farmer.
 - This is the sort of English up with which I will not put.

Exercise 1c (answers and sources on p. 200)*Identifying categories of language use* (see 1.3.3)

Identify the categories of language use in these samples of language, as follows:

Tenor formal or informal
Mode spoken or written
Domain advertising, journalism, or religion

Example After reading this, other central heating systems won't look so hot.

Tenor: informal; *Mode:* written; *Domain:* advertising.

- The Senate yesterday announced the creation of a nine-man committee to investigate the relationship between Billy Carter and Colonel Qaddafi's government in Libya.
- Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.

- Anywhere return, still only 50p.
- Contour tiling, it looks superb, it feels marvellous.
- So what's likely to happen now? Well the report has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions, in view of er certain evidence.

Exercises**Exercise 1a** (answers on p. 199)

True/false questionnaire (to test your understanding of the chapter)
 The following statements should be labelled 'true' or 'false':

- The study of grammar must include the study of Latin.
- Grammar can be seen as a set of rules which we follow when we use language.
- We can follow the grammatical rules of our native language without knowing them consciously.
- The study of grammar will improve your spelling.
- Grammar only deals with the study of writing, because it originally meant 'to write' in Greek.
- Children have to be properly tutored in their language if they are to learn to speak grammatically.
- Studying grammar involves learning how people should speak.
- It is incorrect to end a sentence with a preposition.
- American English is less grammatical than British English.
- The way we speak depends, among other things, on our personal characteristics.
- The way we speak to friends is identical to the way we speak to strangers.
- Dialect is inferior to the standard language.
- Factory workers in the north and south of Britain differ more in their speech than do doctors.
- The term TENOR refers to the pitch of your voice in a given situation.
- Whatever you can convey in speech, you can also convey in writing.
- Medicine could be considered a language domain.
- All languages follow the same grammatical rules.
- A sentence which is difficult to understand must be ungrammatical.
- The use of language in literature is the same as in conversation.
- Poetic licence is official permission to write poetry.