

# ET121-15 Describing English Language

20/21

**Department**

Applied Linguistics

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 1

**Module leader**

Tilly Harrison

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

50% coursework, 50% exam

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Are the rules of English grammar fixed for all time or are they changing? Is it important to follow rules such as not splitting an infinitive? What is the difference between an adverb and an adverbial? In this module we will learn about the structure of the English language and explore answers to these questions. You will develop a sound grasp of a useful method for exploring English grammar, and learn the relevant terminology. By the end of the module, you will be able to apply this descriptive framework to any text in English and understand the effect of grammar choices on your style of writing.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

The module aims to develop a sound grasp of the nature and terminology of English grammar viewed as constituent structure. Students will gain skills in applying this descriptive framework to any text in English and understand the effect of grammar choices on style.

This module will contribute primarily to the achievement of Course Aims # 2, # 3 and #4:

2. Give students an in-depth appreciation of the linguistic, historic and global complexity of the

English Language.

3. Enable students to analyse language in general and the English language in particular at every level from the word to its place in society at large.
4. Develop students' ability to write, speak and communicate visually in the appropriate English for the context.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Description and Prescription

Grammar and effective communication

Sentences and their parts

Form and Function

Open and Closed word classes

Noun, verb and adjectival phrases

Clause patterns

- finite and non-finite
- declarative, interrogative and imperative
- active and passive

Parsing

Subordination and Coordination

Skeleton Analysis

Basic and Derived Structures

Style and Transformations

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- distinguish between description and prescription in English grammar
- analyse and label sentence constituents accurately
- parse any sentence
- understand the role of grammar in effective communication

## Indicative reading list

Ballard, K. (2013). (3rd ed.) The frameworks of English. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Culpeper, J. (2009). English language. Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kuiper, K. & Scott Allan, W. (2010). (3rd ed.) An Introduction to the English Language: Word, Sound and Sentence Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Leech, G., Deuchar, M., & Hoogenraad, R. (2006). (2nd ed.) English grammar for today. Basingstoke [England]: Palgrave Macmillan.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## Research element

Students will be required to investigate current uses of English in the world around them as part of the seminar discussions and for their summative assignment.

## Subject specific skills

Demonstrate ability to: classify constituents according to form and function;  
classify and label words according their class;  
identify and label phrases;  
recognise and analyse the structure of clauses;  
parse a sentence according to constituent structure;  
classify subordinate clauses according to type;  
analyse derived structures showing the relation to the basic structure;  
Demonstrate ability to critically reflect on the effect of syntax on style.

## Transferable skills

An in-depth appreciation of the linguistic, historic and global complexity of the English Language.  
Analyse language in general and the English language in particular at every level from the word to its place in society at large.  
Develop the ability to write, speak and communicate visually in the appropriate English for the context.

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Other activity	6 hours (4%)
Private study	77 hours (51%)
Assessment	40 hours (27%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

Reading subject materials and revising lectures

### Other activity description

Revision sessions

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group C2

	Weighting	Study time
2000 word essay	50%	20 hours
Text analysis and essay		
Online Examination	50%	20 hours
Text analysis		
~Platforms - AEP		

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- Online examination: No Answerbook required

### Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on the assignment will be provided on the department's standard feedback sheets, which conform to Faculty regulations. This will include both summary and detailed feedback. Where appropriate, additional feedback may be provided via personal meetings with the tutor.

[Past exam papers for ET121](#)

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UETA-Q311 in English Language and Linguistics (with Intercalated year)