

The ELT Grammar Book: A Teacher-Friendly Reference Guide

Review by Justin Shewell

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THE ELT GRAMMAR BOOK: A TEACHER-FRIENDLY REFERENCE GUIDE. Firsten, R., & Killian, P. San Francisco: Alta Book Center Publishers. 2003. Pp. 569. \$36.95. ISBN 1-882483-90-1

One area in English that seems to get a lot of attention worldwide is grammar. However, ideas about what is correct grammar and what is incorrect grammar can be very different among teachers. It is difficult for many teachers to know exactly what is correct, and how they can teach grammar to their students.

Enter *The ELT Grammar Book*, “a teacher-friendly reference guide” that helps teachers understand the grammar rules, and then offers ideas and tips for teaching grammar to students. This is definitely a teacher-oriented book, and a must-have for any teacher who may teach grammar.

The book is organized into sections based on specific English grammar points. For example, word order, the present, past, and future tenses, modals, and so on. Each section offers an in-depth review of the grammar rules and numerous helpful examples. Each section concludes with tips and ideas for teaching that particular grammar point in the classroom. These activities are varied, and most can be adapted for any level. This made it very easy for me to open to the section of the book related to what I was teaching on any given day, and find a variety of activities and classroom techniques that reinforced that grammar principle. Also, my students loved the activities and it helped make the class more exciting (something very important when you are teaching a class totally devoted to grammar).

The ELT Grammar Book is a reference, so it is easily adaptable to many different classroom and curriculum situations. Also, it is fairly inexpensive. Since it is so comprehensive, it makes a great addition to any program and can be an immense help to teachers.

I used the book as a reference for one semester in my grammar class (high-intermediate) and found it very useful. It did not have any information about gerunds and infinitives, which is a big part of our class, but other than that I found it to be an excellent resource.

About the Reviewer

Justin Shewell holds a B.A. in TESOL from BYU-Hawaii. He teaches at the English Language Center and is a graduate student at BYU. He has taught English in Korea and the United States.