

**THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD 500 007**



SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

**MODERN ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND USAGE
ASSIGNMENTS (2017-2018)**

(This set of assignments contains 6 printed pages.)

Assignment I

(Based on Block I)

I. The following sentences are unacceptable vis-à-vis Standard English. (1) Identify the deviant features in each of these sentences and (2) suggest an acceptable version.

1. We are meeting in Chennai, isn't it?
2. I am looking forward to meeting you.
3. Old people often forget the things.
4. Ranjan will be upset unless you leave the room dirty.
5. In spite of all the problems she kept up the chin.
6. I managed to submit my assignments with the skin of my teeth.
7. Hari would like to work in the US when he will complete his course.
8. Phil started from his house earlier to me but reached after me.
9. "I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell me why?" (From an application for financial help)
10. Opportunities are like sunrises; if you wait too long, you should miss them.

II. Comment critically on the following statements in about 50 to 60 words each.

1. A teacher must be aware of a linguist's grammar, otherwise he won't be able to teach well.
2. A teacher has to adopt a prescriptive approach to grammar teaching.
3. A person who speaks English fluently is often quite intelligent.
4. "Learner's Grammar" benefits a great deal to the linguist.
5. The most important part of grammar is structures; that is what we should teach. Their meanings and usage are not so important for students.

Assignment II
(Based on Block II)

I. Assign functional labels (i.e. Subject, Object, Complement, etc.) as illustrated in Section 2.4 of Unit 2 (pp. 19-20) to the underlined phrases in the following sentences.

- i. A tiger was walking through the jungle one day and saw two men relaxing under a tree.
- ii. One was reading a newspaper.
- iii. The other was working feverishly on a manual typewriter.
- iv. The tiger leapt on the man with the newspaper and ate him up.
- v. The tiger did not bother the other man at all.
- vi. That is because any predator knows that readers *digest* but writers *cramp*.

II. Assign a formal and a semantic label to each of the following sentences.

1. How would you like to go to a movie?
2. You should really think twice before marrying that scum!
3. Must you forward this message to all your friends?
4. She is quite a bundle of joy!
5. How very interesting that you are also reading the same book!

III. Say whether the following sentences belong to the Simple, Complex, or Compound type. If complex, say whether they belong to the matrix – embedded type or the main subordinate type, and identify the matrix/main and the embedded/subordinate clauses. If compound, identify all the independent clauses.

1. Some of the anecdotes my uncle told me were hilarious.
2. Many of my long-lost friends have come back to stay in the same town.
3. This ancient and dilapidated car is being sold as an antique piece.
4. There are few words in English that rhyme with ‘orange.’
5. God gets a chance to err and learn, but humans don’t.
6. The largest crater on the moon measures 183 miles across.
7. I have forgotten what I wanted to say.
8. That the world is a stage and we are all actors on it is quite true.

Assignment III
(Based on Block III)

I. Pick out the finite verbals in the following passage and analyze their structures using tree diagrams.

Myths and old beliefs are very interesting. The Egyptians thought the world was in the shape of a rectangle and that the heavens were held up by four giant pillars. They also warned sailors not to go too far away or you just might row off the giant rectangle called Earth. When the Queen of England heard this, she sent 4 ships south, north, east and west to search for these “pillars”. When they didn’t find any (because the world is in the shape of a sphere) they questioned the Egyptians and they told her the pillars must have been farther than they predicted! Clever, weren’t they?

II. Point out the differences, if any, between the sentences in each of the following pairs. The difference may relate to form, function and/ or meaning.

- i. a. I stopped writing emails.
b. I stopped to write emails.
- ii. a. Mini interests him immensely.
b. Mini is interested in him immensely.
- iii. a. They are banging the doors all the time!
b. They will bang the doors all the time!
- iv. a. Ram chairs the next session.
b. Next, Ram chairs the session.
- v. a. You must have met her.
b. You may have met her.
- vi. a. The man downed two glasses.
b. The man threw down two glasses.

III. Say whether the verbs in the following sentences are phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs or phrasal-prepositional verbs:

1. After her father passed away, she looked after her family.
2. They looked up their old friends.
3. This Vijay offered an apology for his behavior.
4. Don’t switch off the lights.
5. Minaj came down the stairs.

IV. Comment on the acceptability of the following sentences from the point of view of Standard English. In each case, point out the deviant features and suggest an acceptable version.

1. I’m loving you so much, but you are not understanding it.
2. Mehul found that her room was infested with mouses.
3. Had he attempted the exam he would have had passed with flying colours.
4. The children were not familiarly acquainted with the magician’s tricks.
5. Why should I do if he want me to visit the museum?

Assignment IV
(Based on Block IV)

I. Analyze the structure of the underlined noun phrases in the following passage using tree diagrams.

The first black surgeon to do open heart surgery, a common procedure now, was Dr. Daniel Hale Williams. In 1893, he saved a man who was wounded with a knife by opening his chest and sewing together the gaping wound, which was only a fraction of an inch away from his heart which had miraculously escaped the wound. He was one of the first surgeons in the US to do this. He accomplished this amazingly innovative task without any modern medical devices, such as x-rays.

II. Specify the article features of the underlined NPs in the following sentences:

- i. A dentist invented the electric chair.
- ii. If friendship is your weakest point, then you are the strongest person in the world.
- iii. Let us look at the problem from a different angle.
- iv. Salil got the breaks of his car fixed yesterday.
- v. Those children are sweet as angels.

III. Comment on the use of the underlined items in the sentences below. Point out the differences in their use in each pair. The difference may relate to form, function, and/or meaning.

1. a. Mala hardly works for her upkeep.
b. Mala works hard for her upkeep.
2. a. If you go closer to the dog, he might snap at you.
b. If you go closer to the dog, you might get a good snap.
3. a. He has a black hat.
b. He has a black heart.
4. a. That is my little secret. .
b. I have told him that.
5. a. I gave him a sound beating.
b. No sound of beating came from the room.

IV. Identify the type to which the underlined clauses in each of the following sentences belong. You must choose from the following types:

- i. Restrictive Relative clause
- ii. Non-restrictive Relative clause
- iii. Nominal relative clause
- iv. Appositive clause
- v. Connective clause
- vi. Sentential relative clause

1. He comes with me wherever I go.
2. That the workers are still laboring under the hot sun is pathetic.
3. Teachers, who have kind hearts, are necessary for society.
4. Teachers who have kind hearts are rare.
5. He gave me a gift on my birthday, which was so amazing.
6. I told Meena my story, who refused to believe it.
7. The story, that he was a regular thief, was shocking.
8. The story that she told her husband was shocking.

V. Comment on the acceptability of the following sentences from the point of view of Standard English. In each case, point out the deviant features and suggest an acceptable version.

1. Roses, that bloom in the spring, are especially fragrant.
2. Indra's husband's friends' daughter's wedding was a grand affair.
3. Let's go in the countryside in this weekend.
4. Myself is very poor in maths.
5. One cannot get all their answers right.

Assignment V
(Based on Block V)

I. Distinguish between the underlined items in each of the following pairs:

1. a. Put the trash in this can.
b. Can you put the trash away?
2. a. He is a left-handed guy.
b. He gave her a left-handed compliment.
3. a. Still waters run deep.
b. The river is not cleaned still.
4. a. Jiya is in a dark mood.
b. Jiya sat in a dark room.
5. a. This girl Shehnaz has got green fingers.
b. The girl Shenaz is a green eyed monster.
6. a. A fox lives in the forest.
b. He is quite a fox!

II. Comment on the acceptability of the following sentences from the point of view of Standard English. In each case, point out the deviant/ variant features and suggest the more appropriate variant.

1. It was a shortly memorable speech.
2. She is the beautifulest girl I have seen.
3. My brother is phoning me this evening.
4. "Salem" is one of the most expensive shop in the market.
5. I have been listening to her speech and I am finding it very useful.

III. Explain the ambiguity in the following sentences. Say whether it is syntactic or lexical ambiguity.

- i. They shot the policeman with a camera.
- ii. Q: "Do you believe in clubs for young people?"
A: "Only when kindness fails!"
- iii. I fed the dog in the cage.
- iv. Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend; inside it's too hard to read.
- v. Take the chair outside.
- vi. Nasreen is looking for a match.

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