How to Use This Book

This book is a complete course in English grammar, organized in four parts of increasing difficulty. It is designed to work both as a *course* you can read from start to finish and as a *reference* you can dip into when you need to check a specific point.

The four levels

Part I — Beginner: Foundations (Chapters 1–6)
: The essential building blocks: nouns, articles, pronouns, the verb *be*, the simple tenses, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and how to form questions and negatives. Corresponds roughly to CEFR A1–A2.

Part II — Intermediate: Building Fluency (Chapters 7–15)
: The full tense–aspect system, modal verbs, conditionals, the passive, verb patterns, relative clauses, reported speech, comparison, and phrasal verbs. Corresponds roughly to CEFR B1–B2.

Part III — Advanced: Precision and Range (Chapters 16–22)
: Subtleties of tense and aspect, mixed and inverted conditionals, the subjunctive, inversion and cleft sentences, participle clauses, nominalization, ellipsis, cohesion, and causatives. Corresponds roughly to CEFR C1.

Part IV — Very Advanced: Mastery (Chapters 23–29)
: The grammar of the expert user: syntactic analysis, information structure, agreement edge cases, hedging and academic register, punctuation mastery, structural ambiguity, and the great usage debates. Corresponds to CEFR C2 and beyond — much of this material is useful even to native speakers who write professionally.

Features

- **Key Point boxes** summarize the rule you must remember.
- **Common Error boxes** show typical mistakes (marked ✗) next to correct forms (marked ✓).
- **Usage Notes** cover differences between British and American English, formal and informal usage, and points where real usage is more flexible than school rules suggest.
- **Style & Register boxes** help you choose the right form for the right situation, especially in writing.
- **Exercises** appear at the end of every chapter, with a full **Answer Key** in Appendix C.
- Appendices provide a table of **irregular verbs** and a **glossary** of grammatical terms.

A note on "correctness"

Grammar books sometimes present English as a fixed set of rules. Real English is a living language: educated usage varies between regions, registers, and generations. Where usage genuinely varies, this book says so, and tells you what is safest in careful writing. Where a "rule" is really a superstition (for example, the ban on split infinitives), this book tells you that too — in Chapter 29.