

Grammar Contents

These language guidelines represent a rigorous language system unique to Pearson English Readers. Vocabulary lists are drawn from a range of significant English language databases, in particular the Longman Corpus Network, which includes the British National Corpus. Grammar guidelines are based on the latest Council of Europe specifications and the most popular Pearson coursebooks.

EASYSTARTS (200 headwords) – Beginner

Parts of be, have, have got; there is/ are
Positive imperative forms
Positive, negative and question forms
Short answers
Present simple (except negative questions)
Present continuous with present meaning (except negative questions)
Can for ability and permission; Let's...

LEVEL 1 (300 headwords) – Beginner

As previous level plus
There was/were
Negative imperative forms
Present continuous with future meaning
Past simple of listed regular verbs
Irregular past forms: came/ did/ had/ said/ was/ were/ went
Going to for prediction and intention
Can for possibility
Would like + noun phrase
-ing forms after like, stop
Infinitive forms after want, start, like

LEVEL 2 (600 headwords) – Elementary

As previous level plus
Negative questions
Past simple of listed irregular verbs
Will for offers, requests and with future meaning
Could for past ability and possibility
Have to for obligation
Would like + infinitive
Common phrasal verbs with transparent meanings
-ing forms after go, verbs of (dis)like

LEVEL 3 (1200 headwords) – Pre-Intermediate

As previous level plus
Present perfect simple
Past continuous
Passive forms: present and past forms of be + past participle
is/ was/ has been able to
Can't to deny possibility
Could for requests and suggestions
Must for obligation
Shall for suggestions, plans and offers
Need (to)/ needn't for necessity
Should (positive only) for advice
Would for desires, preferences
To + infinitive after what/ where, etc.
Infinitives after permitted verbs and adjectives, with too/ enough/ very, after indefinite pronouns/ adverbs; infinitive of purpose
Question tags: positive tag following negative statement and vice versa
Common phrasal verbs with non-transparent meanings

LEVEL 4 (1700 headwords) – Intermediate

As previous level plus
Simple passive verb forms (except modal perfects)
Present and past continuous passive verb forms
Present simple for future reference
Present perfect continuous
Past perfect
Have something done
Make/ let + infinitive
Used to
Was/ were going to
Had better for advice or desirability
May/ might for possibility
Must for deduced facts
Should/ ought to for advice, duty and desirability
Would for hypothetical situations
Question tags: positive tag following positive statements

LEVEL 5 (2300 headwords) – Upper-Intermediate

As previous level plus
Past perfect continuous
Future continuous
Get something done
May for permission
Would for willingness/ refusal

LEVEL 6 (3000 headwords) – Advanced

As previous level plus
Future perfect
Modal perfects
Might for a suggested course of action
Must have/ can't have for assumptions
Should (have) for expectation
Will (have) for assumptions
Would for habitual past actions