

NEW EDITION

# Grammar Essentials

*Graded Exercises in English*

ROBERT J. DIXSON



## Grammar Essentials: Graded Exercises in English

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Pearson Education, 10 Bank Street, White Plains, NY 10606

Acquisitions editor: Virginia L.

Blanford Development editor:

Katherine Rawson Production

editor: Marc Oliver

Marketing manager: Joe Chapple

Senior manufacturing buyer: Nancy

Flaggman Cover and interior design:

Tracey Munz Cataldo Text composition:

Carlisle Communications

Text font: Meta Plus Book 11/14

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Dixon, Robert James.

Grammar essentials: graded exercises in English / Robert J. Dixon-New ed.

Dixon, Robert James	دیگسون، رابرت جیمز	سرشناسه
Grammar essentials: graded exercises in	عنوان	عنوان
/ Robert J. Dixon-English	پدیدآور	پدیدآور
تهران: نوین پویا، ۱۳۹۵ = ۲۰۱۷ م.	ملاحظات نشر	ملاحظات نشر
۳۳۲ ص: مصور، جدول (رنگ).	مشخصات ظاهری	مشخصات ظاهری
978-600-7743-33-1	شابک	شابک
وضعیت فهرست نویسی	وضعیت فهرست نویسی	وضعیت فهرست نویسی
پادداشته	پادداشته	پادداشته
پادداشته	پادداشته	پادداشته
آوانویسی عنوان	آوانویسی عنوان	آوانویسی عنوان
موضوع	موضوع	موضوع
English language -- Grammar -- Self-instruction	موضوع	موضوع
موضوع	موضوع	موضوع
English language -- Grammar -- Study and teaching	موضوع	موضوع
رده بندی کنگره	رده بندی کنگره	رده بندی کنگره
۱۳۹۵/۳۱۱۱۳۲۱	۱۳۹۵/۳۱۱۱۳۲۱	۱۳۹۵/۳۱۱۱۳۲۱
۴۲۵	۴۲۵	۴۲۵
شماره کتابشناسی ملی	شماره کتابشناسی ملی	شماره کتابشناسی ملی
۴۵۵۵۳۴	۴۵۵۵۳۴	۴۵۵۵۳۴

ناشر: انتشارات نوین پویا	ناشر: انتشارات نوین پویا
اسم کتاب: Grammar Essentials	اسم کتاب: Grammar Essentials
(Graded Exercises in English)	(Graded Exercises in English)
نویسنده: ROBERT J. DIXON	نویسنده: ROBERT J. DIXON
تعداد صفحه: ۲۳۲/وزیری	تعداد صفحه: ۲۳۲/وزیری
شابک: ۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۷۷۴۳-۳۳-۱	شابک: ۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۷۷۴۳-۳۳-۱
قیمت: ۱۶۰۰ تومان	قیمت: ۱۶۰۰ تومان
*****	*****
مرکز پخش: تهران انتشارات نوین	مرکز پخش: تهران انتشارات نوین
پویا ۱۳۹۵/۳۱۱۱۳۲۱-۶۶۹۵۱۲۴۱	پویا ۱۳۹۵/۳۱۱۱۳۲۱-۶۶۹۵۱۲۴۱
تهران زبان برتر ۶۶۴۷۷۱۵۹	تهران زبان برتر ۶۶۴۷۷۱۵۹
مازندران، تنکابین: انتشارات نوین	مازندران، تنکابین: انتشارات نوین
پویا ۱۳۹۵/۳۱۱۱۳۲۱-۵۴۲۲۱۲۳۱	پویا ۱۳۹۵/۳۱۱۱۳۲۱-۵۴۲۲۱۲۳۱
تنکابین: راه خرم آباد-روبروی بانک ملی-بازار	تنکابین: راه خرم آباد-روبروی بانک ملی-بازار
مرکز خرید-قلاز ۲ شرقی زبان-ترای	مرکز خرید-قلاز ۲ شرقی زبان-ترای
پویا ۱۱۵۴۲۳۶۵۱۱	پویا ۱۱۵۴۲۳۶۵۱۱
Email: novinpooyapress@gmail.com	Email: novinpooyapress@gmail.com

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The twenty-first century has brought a renewed emphasis on fundamentals in language learning. Mastery of basic grammar is once again seen as a critical building block of fluency. This workbook, first published almost thirty years ago, continues to provide the tools that students need to achieve grammar mastery.

*Grammar Essentials*, which was formerly published as *Graded Exercises in English*, is not designed to replace a regular classroom text. Rather, it is designed to supplement the text, to offer needed variety to a lesson, or simply to provide additional drill materials on important points of grammar and usage. Students will find it useful for self-study (an answer key is provided at the back) or for further practice on points about which they do not yet feel confident.

All explanatory material has been kept to a minimum. The grammar points that students need to know are presented in simple language, with clear examples, and students are then asked to complete exercises that provide practice in the correct use of those points. Many of these exercises will seem simple to a native speaker but provide real challenges to those studying English as a foreign or second language. This book is not designed to test knowledge. The exercises are not designed to find out how much a student knows or does not know. Their purpose is simply to provide practice (lots of practice!) on basic points of grammar and usage. These are *practice* exercises—nothing more. They provide an additional means for students to repeat materials that can be learned only through continuous use. For this reason, many exercises have been made as simple and clear as possible, and much direct repetition has been purposely introduced.

*Grammar Essentials* is organized in a step-by-step manner, from easier points to harder and more complex points. The structure echoes the standard sequence of an integrated or four-skills course.

This new edition retains its original features—over 100 grammar points presented, with over 2000 practice opportunities. Each page is tabbed, so topics can be easily found. New to this edition is a 16-page Quick Grammar Reference, which provides a fast, easy review of critical grammar points, including parts of speech, verb tenses, and an extensive list of irregular verbs.

The editors and publishers of Pearson Longman hope that this book will continue to provide help and encouragement to students of English, as Robert J. Dixon intended it to do when he first wrote it almost three decades ago.