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# English Syntax: From Word to Discourse

By Lynn M. Berk



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*English Syntax: From Word to Discourse* is a clear and highly accessible descriptive grammar of English with a strong semantic and discourse/functional focus. Designed for beginning graduate students and advanced undergraduates in linguistics, it is also suitable for use in TESOL/ESL programs and in English departments. The text explains the basics of English syntax while providing students with a comprehensive view of the richness and complexity of the system. Each structure is discussed in terms of its syntactic features, its meaning, and its uses in discourse, and each discussion is extensively illustrated by examples from written texts of all kinds and by excerpts of spoken language. While the presentation has been influenced by a number of theories, the book presumes no theoretical background on the part of the student and the approach is relatively informal. Syntactic structures are graphically illustrated by means of nesting boxes rather than tree diagrams. Historical information illuminates some particularly problematic constructions, and the book is punctuated with intriguing facts about English syntax. All terminology is carefully explained and most terms are defined again in the extensive glossary. Berk anticipates areas where students are likely to have trouble, warns them of pitfalls, and shows them how to avoid common mistakes. *English Syntax: From Word to Discourse* provides a unique alternative to the formal, generative approach of other texts in the field.



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### **Review**

"[A] descriptive survey of English syntax which appeals to both novice and scholar. Lynn Berk has succeeded in making an important pedagogical contribution for TESOL programs and for students of linguistics and English grammar....Berk's approach makes the book very accessible and useful to students in an introductory course on English syntax. The book also serves as a resource for an English as a second language instructor as well as for an advanced second-language learner of English."--Mayrene Bentley in Linguist List

### **About the Author**

Lynn M. Berk is at Florida International University.

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