**LECTURE 1**

University discipline "Practical Grammar & Stylistics of the Target language" is studied on the 1-st course. It consist of 44 academic hours of lecture and 28 academic hours of practice. In according to the Educational Plan of Studying this discipline contains topics about English Grammar and Stylistics of English Language.

**GRAMMAR**

It is clear that you *know* [English grammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-english-grammar-1690579). That is, you know how to put words together in a sensible order and add the right endings. Whether or not you've ever opened a grammar book, you know how to produce combinations of sounds and letters that others can understand. After all, English was used for a thousand years before the first grammar books ever appeared.

The [grammar of a language](https://www.thoughtco.com/why-does-grammar-matter-1691029) includes basic axioms such as verb tenses, articles and adjectives (and their proper order), how questions are phrased, and much more. Language cannot function without grammar. It would simply make no sense—people require grammar to communicate effectively.

Speakers and listeners, authors and their audiences must function in like systems in order to understand one another. In other words, a language without grammar is like a pile of bricks without mortar to hold them together. While the basic components are present, they are, for all intents and purposes, useless.

Knowing about grammar, says [David Crystal](http://www.davidcrystal.com/) in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), means "being able to talk about what it is we are able to do when we construct [sentences](https://www.thoughtco.com/sentence-grammar-1692087) — to describe what the rules are, and what happens when they fail to apply."

In the *Cambridge Encyclopedia*, Crystal spends several hundred pages examining all aspects of the [English language](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-the-english-language-1690652), including its [history](https://www.thoughtco.com/events-history-of-the-english-language-1692746) and [vocabulary](https://www.thoughtco.com/vocabulary-definition-1692597), regional and social variations, and the differences between spoken and written English.

### Fast Facts: Grammar Word Origin and Definition

The word [grammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-grammar-1692610) comes from the Greek, meaning "craft of letters." It's an apt description. In any language, grammar is:

* The systematic study and description of a [language](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-a-language-1691218) (as compared with [usage](https://www.thoughtco.com/usage-grammar-1692575)).
* A set of [rules](https://www.thoughtco.com/rules-of-english-1691922) and examples dealing with the [syntax](https://www.thoughtco.com/syntax-grammar-1692182) and [word](https://www.thoughtco.com/word-english-language-1692612) structures ([morphology](https://www.thoughtco.com/morphology-words-term-1691407)) of a language.

## We Learn Grammar From Birth

British linguist, academic, and author David Crystal tells us that "grammar is the study of all the contrasts of meaning that it is possible to make within sentences. The 'rules' of grammar tell us how. By one count, there are some 3,500 such rules in English."

Intimidating, to be sure, but native speakers don't have to worry about studying each and every rule. Even if you don't know all the lexicographical terms and pedantic minutiae involved in the study of grammar, take it from noted novelist and essayist Joan Didion: "What I know about grammar is its infinite power. To shift the structure of a sentence alters the meaning of that sentence."

Grammar is actually something all of us begin to learn in our first days and weeks of life, through interaction with others. From the moment we're born, language—and the grammar that makes up that language—is all around us. We start learning it as soon as we hear it spoken around us, even if we don't fully comprehend its meaning yet.

Although a baby wouldn't have a clue about the terminology, they do begin to pick up and assimilate how sentences are put together (syntax), as well as figure out the pieces that go into making up those sentences work (morphology).

"A preschooler's tacit knowledge of grammar is more sophisticated than the thickest style manual," explains cognitive psychologist, linguist, and popular science author Steven Pinker. "[Grammar should not] be confused with the guidelines for how one 'ought' to speak."

## 

## Real-World Uses of Grammar

Of course, anyone who wants to be an effective speaker or writer must have at least a basic grasp of grammar. The further beyond the basics you go, the more effectively and clearly you'll be able to communicate in almost any situation.

"There are several applications of grammatical study:  
(1) A recognition of grammatical structures is often essential for punctuation  
(2) A study of one's native grammar is helpful when one studies the grammar of a foreign language/

(3) A knowledge of grammar is a help in the interpretation of literary as well as nonliterary texts, since the interpretation of a passage sometimes depends crucially on grammatical analysis/

(4) A study of the grammatical resources of English is useful in composition: in particular, it can help you to evaluate the choices available to you when you come to revise an earlier written draft."—From An Introduction to English Grammar by Sidney Greenbaum and Gerald Nelson

In a professional setting, having advanced knowledge of grammar can help you interact efficiently and easily with your colleagues, subordinates, and superiors. Whether you're giving directions, getting feedback from your boss, discussing the goals of a particular project, or creating marketing materials, the ability to communicate effectively is extremely important.

**Types of Grammar**

Teachers follow a course of [pedagogical grammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/pedagogical-grammar-1691600) when instructing English language learners. While students mainly have to deal with the nuts-and-bolts of [prescriptive](https://www.thoughtco.com/prescriptive-grammar-1691668), [traditional](https://www.thoughtco.com/traditional-grammar-1692556) grammar (such as making sure verbs and subjects agree and where to put commas in a sentence), linguists focus on the infinitely more complex aspects of language.

They study how people acquire language and debate whether every child is born with a concept of [universal grammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/universal-grammar-1692571), examining everything from how different languages compare to each other ([comparative grammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-comparative-grammar-1689884)) to the variety of permutations within a single language ([descriptive grammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-descriptive-grammar-1690439)) to the way in which words and usage interrelate to create meaning ([lexicogrammar](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-a-lexicogrammar-1691120)).

**Why You Should Study English Grammar**

It's the chapters on English grammar that are central to his book, just as grammar itself is central to any study of language. Crystal opens his chapter on "Grammar Mythology" with a list of six reasons to study grammar--reasons worth stopping to think about.

1. **Accepting the Challenge:**"Because It's There." People are constantly curious about the world in which they live, and wish to understand it and (as with mountains) master it. Grammar is no different from any other domain of knowledge in this respect.
2. **Being Human:**But more than mountains, language is involved with almost everything we do as human beings. We cannot live without language. To understand the [linguistic](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-linguistics-1691012) dimension of our existence would be no mean achievement. And grammar is the fundamental organizing principle of language.
3. **Exploring Our Creative Ability:**Our grammatical ability is extraordinary. It is probably the most creative ability we have. There is no limit to what we can say or write, yet all of this potential is controlled by a finite number of rules. How is this done?
4. **Solving Problems:**Nonetheless, our language can let us down. We encounter [ambiguity](https://www.thoughtco.com/ambiguity-language-1692388), and unintelligible speech or writing. To deal with these problems, we need to put grammar under the microscope and work out what went wrong. This is especially critical when children are learning to emulate the standards used by educated adult members of their community.
5. **Learning Other Languages:**Learning about English grammar provides a basis for learning other languages. Much of the apparatus we need to study English turns out to be of general usefulness. Other languages have clauses, tenses, and adjectives too. And the differences they display will be all the clearer if we have first grasped what is unique to our mother tongue.
6. **Increasing Our Awareness:**After studying grammar, we should be more alert to the strength, flexibility, and variety of our language, and thus be in a better position to use it and to evaluate others' use of it. Whether our own [usage](https://www.thoughtco.com/usage-grammar-1692575), in fact, improves, as a result, is less predictable. Our *awareness* must improve, but turning that awareness into better practice--by speaking and writing more effectively--requires an additional set of skills. Even after a course on car mechanics, we can still drive carelessly.

Philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein said, "Like everything metaphysical the harmony between thought and reality is to be found in the grammar of the language." If that sounds a bit too lofty, we might return to the simpler words of William Langland in his 14th-century poem *The Vision of Piers Plowman*: "Grammar, the ground of all."

**STYLISTICS**

**Why You Should Study Stylistics of English language**

We may start this paper with a question, what is stylistics? Stylistics, as Bradford said, “is an elusive and slippery topic” and its definition in general linguistic book is often mistaken. According to Verdonk and his book Stylistics, stylistics is defined as “The analysis of distinctive expression in language and the description of its purpose and effect.”

Stylistics in general is divided to two major categories, either linguistic stylistics (general stylistics) or non-linguistic stylistics (literary stylistics).

Non-linguistic or literary stylistics is concerned with the evaluation of the esthetic aspect and the prescriptive harmony of writing or speaking language. Esthetic perception of style mirrors the impression made by the reader, while prescriptive perceptions mirrors how well the writer (or the speaker) follows the recommended social and stated rules for good writing. Non-Linguistic stylistics (literary stylistics) is often linked with the criticism and appreciation of literary works.

Linguistic stylistics, on the other hand, investigates the ways in which the meaning is made through literary language and in other kinds of texts. It regards the linguistic models and theories as its tools of analysis to describe the conditions that make the text works. The stylistic analysis commonly concentrates on the traits of texts phonologically, lexically, grammatically, semantically, pragmatically, or discoursally. It also concentrates on the cognitive facets that help in the process of those traits. Stylistic methods study the style of a particular author, the text, or the role played by the readers in constructing meaning. Thus, stylistics is considered a linguistic method that deals with literature. The majority of the stylistic analysis concentrates on the literary works. However, in recent years, stylisticians began to concentrate on non-fictional works such as advertising, news reports, speeches, and academic writings. They also concentrate on non-printed works, such as movies, and multi-modal publications.

## A brief history of stylistics.

One may ask, how did stylistics come into existence? And what is the relation between stylistics and linguistics?

Stylistics, as an academic field, is an invention of the twentieth-century. However, its origins are traced back to the era where the concentration was made on the oral expressions, the era of Aristotle's Rhetoric. In the twentieth-century, Stylistics began in 1966 when Roger Fowler published a book he edited, called Essays on Style and Language. Stylistics, at that time, was viewed as a logical stretching of New Criticism focusing on the text, but it was against the New Criticism school in that it desires precise and efficient treatment of language in texts. However, Stylistics was also influenced by the Russian Formalism and Czech Structuralism. They fulfilled magnificent works in the linguistic analysis of poetry. So, it was guided by these two movements and their works.

The stylistic work, at that time, was mostly dedicated to poetry, and stylisticians focused on the phonetic and grammatical structures. The results of the works made by the stylisticians at that time was applied to poetry easily. Stylistics was formalistically orientated and still depends on the linguistic work.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's there was a desire to establish stylistic techniques that are to be applied to novels. The desire was synchronized with the growing of linguists' interest in textuality in opposite to sentential structures. Novel and drama stylistic analyses are now well-established. The interest in drama was due to the evolution in stylistics through the last years. The linguistic techniques conquered the analysis of conversational interaction and the two main field of interest are discourse analysis and pragmatics.

## The purpose of stylistics.

We have seen that Stylistics uses linguistic techniques to describe and analyze literary works, but why? What is the purpose of stylistics?

Stylistics examines the creativity in the use of language. It enhances the way we think about language and its uses. Thus the stylistic process, examining the creativity of language use, develops our understanding of literature. The purpose of stylistics is to connect linguistic analysis with literary criticism. This can be done by expanding the literary intuitiveness of linguists and by expanding the linguistic observation and knowledge of critics. Thus, the linguists' attention will be focused on how the literary text represents the language system. The critics will also consider the underlying significance of the text. To sum up, stylistics uses linguistic techniques to examine and analyze literary works for making connections between linguistic analysis and literary criticism. The efforts of stylisticians to make such connections help develop our understanding of literature and of the underlying significance of texts.