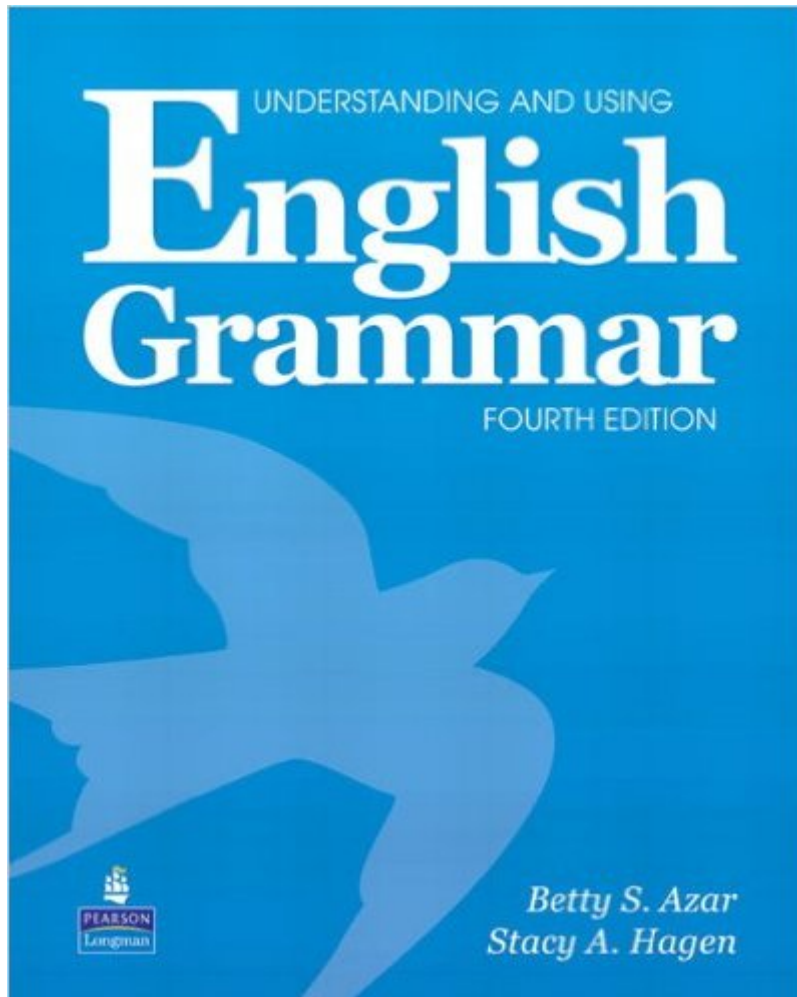


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Understanding And Using English Grammar, 4th Edition (Book & Audio CD)



Synopsis

A classic developmental skills text for intermediate to advanced students of English, *Understanding and Using English Grammar* is a comprehensive reference grammar as well as a stimulating and teachable classroom text. While keeping the same basic approach and material as in earlier editions, the Fourth Edition more fully develops communicative and interactive language-learning activities. Some of the new features are:

- Innovative warm-up exercises that precede the grammar charts and introduce points to be taught
- Structure-based listening exercises ranging from casual speech to academic content
- Academic readings that highlight the targeted grammar structures
- Greatly expanded speaking practice with extensive pair, group and class work
- Corpus-informed syllabus that reflects the discourse patterns of spoken and written English
- Audio CDs and listening script in the back of the Student Book

Book Information

Series: *Understanding and Using English Grammar* fourth edition

Paperback: 530 pages

Publisher: Longman; 4th edition (March 6, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0132333333

ISBN-13: 978-0132333337

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 1 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

I have taught academic English to university-level non-native speakers for over 30 years, and Azar's grammar series was a solid rock that I could build my courses on...until now. Yes, this 4th edition has CDs, pretty colored pictures, and lots of conversational exercises, but from an academic perspective, despite its slick add-ons, this is NOT an improvement over the 3rd edition--in fact, in some ways it is a step backwards, particularly for academic-bound international students who may continue to use English internationally. It is truly dismaying to see what has been deleted from the 3rd Edition to make room in the 4th Ed. for the CD listening exercises and strictly American

colloquial items, at a time when internationalized English is most important. I could write for quite a while about what essential academic English has been sacrificed, but just as one example, the "troublesome verbs" (i.e., raise/rise, sit/set, lay/lie), which often appear on the TOEFL and cannot be dispensed with in formal writing, have been relegated to a brief section in the appendix, and the 3rd Edition's excellent exercise for these verbs has been removed COMPLETELY! Another thing that is important for university-bound students, the word "whereas" - which was presented in the 3rd Ed. along with "while" as a subordinator showing contrast - is now only mentioned in a small footnote. This is further dismay, considering that "whereas" is in technical writing a more precise, exclusive subordinator to indicate contrast, whereas [!] "while" doubles as a time subordinator.

UUEG "Blue Betty" 4th edition was used for the Grammar-Writing-3 classes in the Intensive English Language Program (IELP) at Portland State University in winter quarter 2010. Approx 80-100 international students are enrolled in Grammar-Writing-3; average class size = 15-20 Ss. Some teachers used only the book. Some used the book + the audio CD + the UUEG network software that PSU bought from Prentice Hall. The book design = clean and straightforward, using only blue and black ink, with concise presentation of the rule followed by abundant practice exercises. 530 pages contain many well-laid-out tables. My favorite = the tidy irregular-past verb tables, which fit on 2 pages. Appendices in the back of the book are chock-full of extra but closely related grammar that can be very handy for delivering a quick answer in class, without getting digressed. I used the audio CD for in-class listening practice (e.g., simulated radio broadcasts). There is a CD listening item for every chapter in the book. (Nice for breaking up a long grammar-intensive day.) Since I don't like to spend class time on drills, but repetition is essential for reinforcing knowledge of structures, I assigned the book-matched computer drills as homework. Ss report that they enjoy repeating difficult items privately on the computer; and knowing that they can practice privately can calm their anxiety that the class is moving too fast. However, supplemental computer work is not necessary. There are so many practice exercises in the textbook that the old pencil-and-paper method can provide just as much homework drill. The other nice thing about the UUEG 4th edition book layout = the chapters (and matching supplements) are both brief and cleanly modularized.

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