

## Top 2 grammar techniques, and ways to improve

Grammar is the most fundamental concept in languages. Thus, in order to learn a second language successfully, grammar is the most important concepts to be understand.

The reason why I think the grammar is important in writing and in becoming a good tutor is because Most of my tutees understand their assignments very well. Even if they fail to follow the direction of their assignments, they would still just focus on the grammar errors. This fact let me realized that most students focus on their grammar more then everything else, for example the sentences structures, word choice, etc. As a result of that, I think having a great grammar concept is a important part in writing and to become a good tutor.

I never learn that formally, so I usually don't focus the grammar on my tutee's papers. However, most of my tutee came and asked to help their grammar errors, and since I am a tutor, I have the responsibility toward my tutees by give them the best explanation of their questions. Thus, I started to study the English grammar rule, and also try to find some sources online.

When I am thinking the topic for my final project, I thought, since most of my tutees have the same grammar problems, so why don't I focus on those grammar rules, so both tutors and tutees will have more clear rules in this grammar concept. Also during my tutoring sessions, I realized that people care about the grammar more then everything else in writing, which let me feel , unless I have perfect grammar concept in my mind, I won't be a good tutor in any English level. Yes, but just because the tutee thinks she/he needs it the most, he/she is often mistaken. It's our job to help tutee's understand what will really make the writing better.

### Use of Conjunctions

\* Good writing should flow. Each point should be connected in some way to the previous point.

\* Connectives act like signposts, telling the reader which direction the text is heading in  
\* Coordinating conjunctions always come between the words or clauses that they join.

A. Coordinators Conjunctions: and, but, so, or, nor, for\*, yet\*, connect elements of equal importance.

S + V , but S + V

Example: I love ski, but I broke my tail bone.

S + V and V

Example: I love shopping and watching TV.

S or S + V

Example: Mary or Lisa will go shopping tomorrow.

N and N

Example: San Francisco and Los Angeles are in the California state.

Adj. and Adj.

Phrase and Phrase

Can be used in a series: A, B, C, or D

B. Subordinating Conjunctions: although, because, since, unless  
\*Subordinating conjunctions usually come at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Example: Although I sleep early, I still can get up early.

Example: I went to Starbucks because I like to drink coffee.

Example: Since I am a tutor, I have to be more responsible.

Example: Unless he changes his mind, we have a quiz tomorrow.

Punctuations

\*Punctuation is as important as vocabulary. Incorrect punctuation often inhibits meaning more than incorrect spelling. Here are some general rules of punctuation:

A. The Comma

a. There are many different ways to use a comma, remember, commas

cannot replace full stops.

1. Use commas to separate independent clauses when they are joined

by any of these seven coordinating conjunctions: and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet.

Example: The game was over, but the crowd refused to leave.

2. Use commas after introductory a) clauses, b) phrases, or c) words that come before the main clause.

a. Introductory clauses start with adverbs like after, although, as, because, before, if, since, though, until, when, etc.

Example: While I was eating, the cat scratched at the door. b. Note, don't put a comma after the main clause when a depended (subordinate) clause follows it (except for cases of extreme contrast).

Example: The cat scratched at the door, while I was eating.

3. Common introductory words that should be followed by a comma include yes, however, well.

Example: However, you may not be satisfied with the results.

B. The Semi-Colon

a. Use a semicolon along with a conjunctive adverb and a comma to clarify the

relationship between two closely related complete sentences.

Conjunctive

adverbs include however, therefore, in addition, moreover, subsequently,

consequently, instead, and additionally.

Example: The Leaning Tower of Pisa is in danger of falling over; however,

engineers are trying to stabilize its foundation.

b. Use a semicolon to separate a series of phrases or clauses that are long or have

punctuation, like commas, within them.

c. We usually use the semicolon to link independent clauses.

Example: Jim studied in the Sweet Shop for his chemistry quiz.

## Ways To improve

There are several web sides to practice the use of conjunctions and punctuations, list below:

### Conjunctions:

[http://www.englishmistakeswelcome.com/conjunctions\\_practice.htm](http://www.englishmistakeswelcome.com/conjunctions_practice.htm)

<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/410/reading/exercises/deathqz.htm>

<http://www.better-english.com/grammar/conjunctions.htm>

<http://www.better-english.com/grammar/con2.htm>

[\[test.net/esl/learn/english/grammar/ei104/esl-test.php\]\(http://www.english-test.net/esl/learn/english/grammar/ei104/esl-test.php\)](http://www.english-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

### Punctuations:

[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g\\_overvwEX1.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g_overvwEX1.html)

[http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/GRAMMAR/quizzes/punct3\\_quiz.htm](http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/GRAMMAR/quizzes/punct3_quiz.htm)

[http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/punc\\_ex.html](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/punc_ex.html)

[http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar\\_tutorial/page\\_55.htm](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_55.htm)

[http://oregonstate.edu/dept/eli/buswrite/punctuation\\_practice.html](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/eli/buswrite/punctuation_practice.html)

### More sources

<http://www.learnenglish.de/>

When I was search the web side for my tutee's problems in their writing, I found this useful web side for both English learners and the English teachers. I organize them in two categories, for students, and for teachers.

For students, they provide different learning styles for different English levels. For example, they have online lessons and tests for students, who want to learn English formally. They also have some fun games for students, who wants to learn English in a relax way.

Moreover, they provides the most useful idioms for the ESL students, I think this can not only let students learn English, but also learn the American culture. How does this site specifically tell us how to teach grammar in a tutoring session?

For teachers, they arrange a teaching style guides for teachers to search the best way to teach. They also arrange the most commonly problems that student have, and how can a teacher teach them those problems, so the students won't make the same mistakes again.

In order to become a good tutor, I think this web side is great for me, because I can always find a best way to solve my tutee's problems in their writing, and also to improve myself in grammar concepts. Good, but do you have more than one source? You may want to find a source that is more theory about why Grammar is so important and how we can help students learn it.

Reference:

[http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:gumczmIYZNIJ:www.teachers.tv/system/files/19010\\_01.ppt+top+5+grammar+concerns+for+students.&hl=zh-TW&ct=clnk&cd=6&gl=us&client=firefox-a](http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:gumczmIYZNIJ:www.teachers.tv/system/files/19010_01.ppt+top+5+grammar+concerns+for+students.&hl=zh-TW&ct=clnk&cd=6&gl=us&client=firefox-a)

<http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/conjunctions.htm>