

**English Descriptive Grammar**

Code: 103410  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	FB	1	1
2501902 English and Catalan	FB	1	1
2501907 English and Classics	FB	1	1
2501910 English and Spanish	FB	1	1
2501913 English and French	FB	1	1

**Contact**

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**Use of languages**

Principal working language: english (eng)  
Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Teachers**

Alan Davidson Reeves  
Merce Coll Alfonso  
Elisabet Pladevall Ballester

**Prerequisites**

A B2 (upper-intermediate) level of English of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is required.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

This subject offers an introduction to the main structures of English grammar and provides the student with essential concepts and terminology to be able to describe it scientifically. After the first unit where the distinction between form and function is introduced, the course considers heads and modifiers, how to classify words into categories and how to identify groups of words that form constituents. Then simple, compound and complex sentences are described and a brief unit is devoted to sentence types (such as interrogatives).

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- Identify the category of words
- Identify constituents in sentences using constituency tests
- Identify phrases of different types
- Distinguish between simple, complex and compound sentences
- Identify the type of subordination in complex sentences

## Skills

### English Studies

- Describe synchronously the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.
- Executing in oral and written form a flexible and effective use of the English language with academic, professional and social purposes.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

### English and Catalan

- Describe synchronously the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.

### English and Classics

- Describe synchronously the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.
- Executing in oral and written form a flexible and effective use of the English language with academic, professional and social purposes.

### English and Spanish

- Describe synchronously the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.

### English and French

- Describe synchronously the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.
- Executing in oral and written form a flexible and effective use of the English language with academic, professional and social purposes.

## Learning outcomes

1. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
2. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
3. Demonstrating a general comprehension of the grammatical structures of the current English language.
4. Distinguishing between compound and complex sentences in English.
5. Distinguishing the notions of form and function of the elements at different levels of linguistic analysis.
6. Identifying the basic categories and syntagmas of a simple sentence in English.
7. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
8. Recognising the different types of subordinate sentences found in complex sentences in English.
9. Using the English language with the appropriate expression (correctness, fluency, pronunciation, communicative strategies) in formal (presentations, debates, formal interactions) and informal contexts (conversation) with a level C1.

## Content

Unit 1: Form and function in grammar

Unit 2: Heads and modifiers

Unit 3: Word classes

Unit 4: Predicates and arguments

Unit 5: Constituents and phrases

Unit 6: Clauses, sentences and how they are represented

Unit 7: Coordination

Unit 8: Subordination

## Methodology

The methodology of this subject is based on lectures and class exercises as well as individual tutorials.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Exercise discussion	15	0.6	3, 4, 5, 6, 8
Lectures	30	1.2	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Clearing up doubts	15	0.6	3, 4, 5, 6, 8
Personal feedback on the exercises	10	0.4	3, 4, 5, 6, 8
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Assignment writing	10	0.4	
Completing exercises	30	1.2	1, 2, 7
Studying	34	1.36	3, 4, 5, 6, 8

## Evaluation

### Assessment

- All the subjects in this degree follow continuous assessment.
- Having handed in an assignment and having completed an exam excludes the possibility of having a No available in your student record.
- An assignment not handed in or an exam or quiz not done will count as an 'NP', that is to say, a zero.

### Re-assessment

- Only students who have a 4 (o higher) in the final exam will be allowed to sit the reassessment exam.
- The reassessment exam will cover all the course contents.
- The maximum reassessment mark is a 5.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year subjects) or the WHOLE SUBJECT (second-, third- and fourth-year subjects). PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet

sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a **SERIOUS OFFENCE**. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Assignment	20%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Exam 1	30%	1.5	0.06	3, 5, 6
Final exam	40%	1.5	0.06	1, 3, 4, 6, 8
Quiz	10%	1.5	0.06	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9

## Bibliography

Aarts, B. (2001) *English Syntax and Argumentation*. 2nd edition. London: Macmillan Press.

Capdevila, M., H. Curell & M. Llinàs (2007) *An Introduction to English Descriptive Grammar*. Volume I. Bellaterra: Servei de Publicacions.

Capdevila, M., H. Curell, M. Llinàs & N. Cuartero (2008) *An Introduction to English Descriptive Grammar*. Volume II. Bellaterra: Servei de Publicacions.

Huddleston, R. & G. Pullum (2007) *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*, Cambridge: C.U.P.

Miller, J. (2002) *An Introduction to English Syntax*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Tallerman, M. (2011) *Understanding Syntax*. 3d edition, London: Hodder Education.