## Contents

| Introduction  | 1  |
|---|----|
| Organisation and content  | 1  |
| Why study the grammar of English?   | 2  |
| What counts as the grammar of English?  | 4  |
| The data  | 7  |
| Grammaticality  | 9  |
| Grammaticality and acceptability  | 9  |
| Grammaticality and intuition  | 10 |
| Grammaticality and power  | 13 |
| Grammaticality: descriptive and prescriptive grammar  | 15 |
| Grammaticality and language change  | 16 |
| Adjectives and adjective phrases  | 19 |
| Adjectives and adjective phrases: introduction  | 19 |
| Adjectives and adjective phrases: adjectives and denotation   | 21 |
| Adjectives and adjective phrases: adjectives and gradability<br>Adjectives and adjective phrases: adjectives as heads of noun | 22 |
| phrases   | 23 |
| Adjectives and adjective phrases: adjectives as a word class<br>Adjectives and adjective phrases: adjective positions in noun | 26 |
| phrases   | 28 |
| Adjectives and adjective phrases: reduplication   | 30 |
| Adverbs and adverb phrases  | 32 |
| Adverbs and adverb phrases: introduction  | 32 |
| Adverbs and adverb phrases: adverbs and adjectives  | 34 |
| Adverbs and adverb phrases: structure of adverb phrases   | 36 |
| Adverbial clauses   | 38 |
| Adverbial clauses: introduction   | 38 |
| Adverbial clauses: time, condition, reason, concession  | 39 |
| Adverbial clauses: less common types  | 40 |

| Adverbial clauses: position in clauses and sentences         | 40  |
|--|-----|
| Adverbial clauses: spoken English                            | 44  |
| Adverbial clauses: subordinate clause or main clause?        | 45  |
| Clause and text  | 48  |
| Clause and text: introduction                                | 48  |
| Clause and text: clefts                                      | 50  |
| IT clefts  | 50  |
| WH clefts  | 52  |
| Reverse WH clefts  | 53  |
| TH clefts  | 54  |
| Clause and text: cohesion                                    | 55  |
| Cohesion: orientation  | 55  |
| Cohesion: orientation in place                               | 55  |
| Cohesion: orientation in time                                | 55  |
| Cohesion: orientation in time: tense and aspect              | 55  |
| Cohesion: co-reference and referent tracking                 | 56  |
| Cohesion: coordination and subordination                     | 57  |
| Cohesion: adverbials and conjunctions                        | 57  |
| Clause and text: cohesion – active, passive, middle          | 58  |
| Clause and text: discourse markers                           | 61  |
| Clause and text: ellipsis                                    | 62  |
| Clause and text: focus                                       | 63  |
| Clause and text: focus: special syntactic                    |     |
| constructions  | 64  |
| Clause and text: focus: word order                           | 67  |
| Clause and text: given and new                               | 67  |
| Clause and text: non-finite clauses                          | 71  |
| Clause and text: spoken and written text                     | 72  |
| Clause and text: theme                                       | 75  |
| Clause structure   | 81  |
| Clause structure: introduction                               | 81  |
| Clause structure: constituents                               | 81  |
| Transposition  | 81  |
| Substitution   | 82  |
| Coordination   | 82  |
| Clause structure: dependency relations                       | 85  |
| Clause structure: hierarchical structure                     | 92  |
| Clause structure: linearity and predicate-argument structure | 95  |
| Clause structure: linearity and grammatical functions        | 97  |
| Clause structure: verb phrases                               | 101 |
| Clause structure: integrated and unintegrated syntax         | 103 |

| CONTENTS  | vii  |
|---|--|
| Clefts Clauses: clefts  | 107<br>107   |
| Complement clauses: complementisers Complement clauses: embedded interrogatives Complement clauses: mood and modality Complement clauses: gerunds, infinitives and meaning Complement clauses: noun complement clauses  | 112<br>112<br>114<br>119<br>121<br>122                             |
| Constructions Constructions: overview   | 125<br>125   |
| Non-finite clauses: introduction Non-finite clauses: infinitives Non-finite clauses: free participles Non-finite clauses: gerunds (Type 1) Non-finite clauses: gerunds (Type 2) Non-finite clauses: reduced adverbials Non-finite clauses: reduced relatives Non-finite clauses: verb stem Non-finite clauses: with + NP Non-finite clauses: eight types or four? | 128<br>128<br>130<br>131<br>133<br>134<br>136<br>137<br>138<br>139 |
| Nouns and noun phrases: introduction Nouns and noun phrases: common and proper Nouns and noun phrases: count and mass Countability: individuals and substances Partitives Number and agreement Nouns and noun phrases: determinatives Nouns and noun phrases: pronouns  | 141<br>141<br>151<br>153<br>153<br>155<br>155<br>158<br>164        |
| Prepositions and prepositional phrases Prepositions and prepositional phrases: introduction   | 170<br>170   |
| Prepositions and prepositional phrases: prepositions and particles Prepositions and prepositional phrases: prepositions,  | 171  |
| transitive and intransitive Prepositions and prepositional phrases: prepositional phrases,  | 173  |

174

175

their distribution

Complements of verbs

| Complements (or postmodifiers) of nouns                     | 175 |
|---|-----|
| Complements (or postmodifiers) of adjectives                | 175 |
| Complements of prepositions                                 | 175 |
| Prepositions and prepositional phrases: prepositions        |     |
| and meaning   | 176 |
| Prepositions and prepositional phrases: prepositional verbs | 178 |
| Relative clauses  | 180 |
| Relative clauses: introduction                              | 180 |
| Relative clauses: contact                                   | 182 |
| Relative clauses: free                                      | 183 |
| Relative clauses: infinitival                               | 185 |
| Relative clauses: non-standard                              | 186 |
| Relative clauses: propositional                             | 187 |
| Relative clauses: restrictive and non-restrictive           | 188 |
| Relative clauses: shadow pronouns                           | 190 |
| Relative clauses: th  | 193 |
| Relative clauses: unattached                                | 195 |
| Relative clauses: unintegrated                              | 197 |
| Relative clauses: wh  | 198 |
| Relative clauses: wh words as deictics                      | 201 |
| Relative clauses: which as discourse connective             | 202 |
| Sentences and clauses                                       | 206 |
| Sentences and clauses: introduction                         | 206 |
| Sentences and clauses: clauses                              | 208 |
| Sentences and clauses: complex sentences                    | 210 |
| Sentences and clauses: compound sentences                   | 211 |
| Sentences and clauses: main and subordinate clauses         | 212 |
| Sentences and clauses: sentence fragments                   | 216 |
| Sentences and clauses: simple sentences                     | 218 |
| Sentences and clauses: subordinate clauses: preposition or  |     |
| complementiser?   | 218 |
| Sentences and clauses: system sentence and text sentence    | 220 |
| Verbs and verb phrases                                      | 224 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: tense and aspect: introduction      | 224 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: tense and aspect in English         | 227 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: future tense                        | 229 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: middle construction                 | 232 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: mood and modality                   | 236 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: passive voice                       | 243 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: present perfect and adverbs         | 245 |

| CONTENTS  | ix  |
|---|-----|
| Verbs and verb phrases: present perfect and resultative | 249 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: present perfect and simple past | 252 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: progressive aspect              | 254 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: simple present                  | 257 |
| Verbs and verb phrases: situation (lexical) aspect      | 261 |
| Word classes  | 268 |
| Word classes: introduction                              | 268 |
| Word classes: major and minor                           | 268 |
| Word classes: gradience                                 | 270 |
| Word classes: criteria                                  | 273 |
| Word classes: semantics                                 | 275 |
| Word classes: syntactic criteria and sub-classes        | 279 |
| Notes   | 281 |
| Bibliography  | 291 |
| Index   | 294 |