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MASTERING ENGLISH GRAMMAR

S. H. BURTON

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PREFACE

This book is an exploration of the behaviour of English words in English sentences. All the grammatical terms and concepts necessary to a thorough understanding of the simple sentence are first explained and illustrated, for the simple sentence is the bedrock on which fluent, accurate and elegant English expression is based.

Later, the more intricate structures of double, multiple, and complex sentences are examined. Those sentences are enlargements of the simple sentence and they are well made when they conform to its basic patterns.

I must emphasise that Chapter 12 *is* what it is called: a chapter for reference. It supplies information about grammatical terms that you may need to look up; and it gathers together the facts that are treated at length and in the course of discussion throughout the rest of the book. A source of quick reference is useful, but it is a back-up to, not a substitute for, the expositions given elsewhere.

Grammar cannot explain everything. The English language is living, changing, flexible. Some of its nimble improvisations defy precise explanations. Yet that seems no sound argument for rejecting the very considerable help that grammar can give. I believe that this grammar book will help you as you use the language.

S. H. BURTON

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