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Survey review: grammar practice books

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Survey review:

grammar practice books

Alan Fortune

Collins Cobuild Basic Grammar

Dave Willis and John Wright
Harper Collins 1995 240 pp. £6.50
ISBN 0 00 370934 5

Grammar and Practice

Michael Duckworth
Oxford University Press 1995 224 pp. £8.70
ISBN 0 19 457068 1

Grammar Practice for Upper Intermediate Students

Elaine Walker and Steve Elsworth
Longman 1995 170 pp. £5.50
ISBN 0 582 10309 6

Grammar Spectrum 1

Ken Paterson
Oxford University Press 1995 120 pp. £3.75
ISBN 0 19 431410 3

How English Works

Michael Swan and Catherine Walter
Oxford University Press 1997 358 pp. £8.95
ISBN 0 19 431456 1

Instant Grammar Lessons

Alan Battersby
Language Teaching Publications 1996 112 pp. £11.95
ISBN 1 899396 40 3

Introduction

In 1988 I wrote a survey review of grammar practice books for this journal. At that time, EFL bookshops were full of such books, which had found a popular niche in the market place. One of the principal reasons was the widespread perception, held by teachers and learners alike, that grammar was somehow being left behind as the Rolls-Royce of communicative language teaching powered forward. Some communicative courses were giving less emphasis to grammar, and it was thought that grammar workbooks would fill in the gaps in the students' knowledge.

Plenty of gap-filling, in another sense, was evident in the books reviewed. The exercises in the best selling *English Grammar in Use*

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