Grammatically Fit 2

A Logical Approach to Integrate English Grammar

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The Grammatically Fit series is all about understanding, practicing and using English grammar.

First, the students are slowly helped to understand each of the 12 grammar rules proposed in each of the 5 booklets of the series by examining selected examples and answering various questions about them. The purpose of this introductory exercise based on active observation is to make the students more aware of WHY, HOW and WHEN each grammar rule is used.

Next, the various grammatical exercises which follow are meant to aid the students in practicing what they were previously made to observe and understand. Nothing prevents the teacher from adding on extra grammatical work to further increase his or her students’ comprehension and grammatical skills.

Finally, using the grammar rules in various written and/or oral activities then provides the students with the opportunity to directly apply, and thus further grasp and better assimilate the rule they have observed, understood and practiced.

The Grammatically Fit series also provides added tools to help the learner attain maximum English proficiency. Besides its grammatical content based on understanding, practicing and using various rules, the Down to Basics and Putting It Together sections are meant as added aids to instill a better comprehension of grammar and to facilitate its everyday use. The former helps to secure a solid grammar base before moving on to new material. The latter gives periodical evaluation pit stops meant to help determine the overall degree of grammatical mastery attained.

Grammatically Fit can be used alone or as an accompaniment to the chosen classroom English learning method. At any moment seen fit by the teacher, a regular class activity can be momentarily put on hold to introduce a particular grammar rule in order to help the students develop and secure better communication skills. The teacher might then decide to simply look at the explanation of the rule with the students and only do one or two exercises judged to be the most appropriate. Nothing prevents the teacher from redoing the exercise(s) or from doing the activities at a later date as a review or to reinforce comprehension of the grammar rule already seen in class. Grammatically Fit is thus to be used as needed in the classroom and as the teacher sees best to help students better understand the English language and use it more efficiently.

The author
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IRREGULAR VERBS CHART ................................................
MODAL AUXILIARIES
UNDERSTANDING THE GRAMMAR RULE

Look at these sentences:

1) He can play the piano.
2) She could walk when she was one year old.
3) It may rain tomorrow.
4) We might go there.
5) You should wash the floor.
6) I must study tonight.
7) They will leave at seven o’clock.
8) She would travel if she had money.

1. What is the main verb of each sentence?

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

2. Before each of these verbs, there is an auxiliary. Write the eight modal auxiliaries:

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

NOTICE that after each modal auxiliary, the infinitive form of the verb is used. You never add S or ED to these verbs and you never put TO in front of them.
UNDERSTANDING THE GRAMMAR RULE
(cont.)

THE DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF THE 8 MODAL AUXILIARIES

- **CAN** expresses ability or possibility in the present or future. (synonym: TO BE ABLE TO)
  e.g. I *can* play the piano. = I *am able to* play the piano.

- **COULD** is the past form of CAN.

- **MAY** and **MIGHT** express possibility in the present or future.
  - **MAY** is also used to give permission.

- **SHOULD** expresses advice. (synonyms: OUGHT TO and HAD BETTER)
  e.g. You *should* do it. = You *ought to* do it. = You *had better* do it.

- **MUST** expresses obligation or necessity. (synonym: TO HAVE TO)
  e.g. I *must* study tonight. = I *have to* study tonight.

- **WILL** expresses future action.

- **WOULD** expresses intended action in conditional sentences.

Go back to the 8 sentences and see if you understand them better.
Look at these four sentences:

1) He may not come.
2) You must not play.
3) They should not do it.
4) We might not go.

3. What is the modal auxiliary in each sentence?

________________________________________

________________________________________

4. List the 4 missing modal auxiliaries:

________________________________________

________________________________________

5. How is the negative formed with a modal auxiliary?

________________________________________

________________________________________

6. Compare it to forming negatives with TO BE:

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

7. What verb tense follows a modal auxiliary?

________________________________________
8. List the modal auxiliaries you see at the beginning of each question:

- May I stay?
- Must I leave?
- Can she do it?
- Will it rain?
- Should I help her?

9. List the missing modal auxiliaries:

10. How do you make a yes/no question with a modal auxiliary? Write the rule:

Remember the following word order:

YES/NO question = MODAL AUXILIARY + subject + infinitive verb +…?
MODAL AUXILIARIES
PRACTICING THE GRAMMAR RULE

1. A) Use CAN or COULD.

a) We _________________ draw very well.

b) I _________________ swim every day when I was in Hawaii.

c) They _________________ go shopping when they feel like it.

d) She _________________ talk fast when she wants to.

e) They _________________ sleep late when they were on vacation.

f) She _________________ walk when she was one year old.

B) Use SHOULD, MAY or MIGHT.

a) You _________________ leave the room if you need to.

b) He _________________ arrive late.

c) We _________________ never take unnecessary chances.

d) You _________________ have a cookie if you want one.

e) He _________________ get sick if he doesn't wear a coat.

f) _________________ I come in please?
PRACTICING THE GRAMMAR RULE
(cont.)

C) Use SHOULD or MUST.

a) I need a car to get to work. I _________________ buy one.

b) You _________________ be careful. You might get hurt.

c) I definitely want to pass. I _________________ study.

d) You are going to Europe tomorrow. You _________________ buy your plane tickets today.

e) She lost a very important document. She _________________ look for it.

f) We _________________ try to relax more.

D) Use WILL or WOULD.

a) I _________________ go next week.

b) You _________________ leave when it’s time.

c) I _________________ stop it if I were you.

D) Use WILL or WOULD.

a) I _________________ go next week.

b) You _________________ leave when it’s time.

c) I _________________ stop it if I were you.

d) He _________________ travel if he had money.

e) She _________________ work if she finds a job.

f) He _________________ answer the phone when he calls.
PRACTICING THE GRAMMAR RULE (cont.)

2. Make the following sentences negative. Use contractions when possible.

a) They should take diving classes next summer.

b) We can make it on time to the show.

c) This could be the only solution to my problem.

d) The Simmons will be here for supper.

e) She might repeat the exercise.

f) The adults may leave during the show.

g) The patients must lie down.

h) Going there would be fun.

i) We will offer her more money.

j) All rules must be followed.
PRACTICING THE GRAMMAR RULE (cont.)

3. Make yes/no questions with the 10 sentences in EXERCISE 2.

a) ___________________________?

b) ___________________________?

c) ___________________________?

d) ___________________________?

e) ___________________________?

f) ___________________________?

g) ___________________________?

h) ___________________________?

i) ___________________________?

j) ___________________________?
1. USING CAN

A) List five things you CAN do. Use a complete sentence.  
   e.g. I can sing a Beatles song...

   a) ____________________________________________
   
   b) ____________________________________________
   
   c) ____________________________________________
   
   d) ____________________________________________
   
   e) ____________________________________________

B) List five activities you CAN do on weekends in your city. Use complete sentences.  
   e.g. I can go shopping at the mall...

   a) ____________________________________________
   
   b) ____________________________________________
   
   c) ____________________________________________
   
   d) ____________________________________________
   
   e) ____________________________________________
2. **USING COULD**

Write a short text (about ten lines) on one of the following subjects:
- What you **COULD** do if you had $2,000.
- What you **COULD** do when you were a child that you can't do now.
3. USING MAY OR MIGHT

Answer these 3 questions using MAY or MIGHT. Use complete sentences.

a) What are you going to be when you are older? e.g. *I may (might) become a nurse.*

b) You don’t have any special plans for this evening. What may or might you do?

c) You want to buy a game (a sweater...). It costs $50 and you only have $20. What may or might you do?

4. USING SHOULD

Give advice to a friend by answering his/her next 4 questions with SHOULD. Use complete sentences.

a) I have a toothache. What should I do?

b) Someone stole my bicycle. What should I do?
c) The computer doesn’t work. What should I do?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

d) I want to improve my English. What should I do?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. USING MUST

Using complete sentences, say what a person **MUST** do in each of the following 4 situations.

a) He/she wants to stay healthy.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

b) He/she wants to pass his/her school year.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

c) He/she wants to learn a new language.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

d) He/she wants to meet new people.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Pair up and compare answers.
If some answers differ, discuss and justify them.
6. USING WILL OR WOULD

Answer the following 9 questions using WILL or WOULD. Use complete sentences.

a) What will you do after school?

b) What will you buy your mother/father for her/his birthday?

c) What would you do if you found somebody’s wallet?

d) Where will you go on your next vacation?

e) How would you help a lost child find his/her parents?

f) When will you start looking for a summer job?
ACTIVITY (cont.)

g) What would you do if your sister/brother hurt herself/himself badly?

__________________________________________

h) Who would you go to for help if you were a victim of bullying?

__________________________________________

i) How would you help a friend experiencing serious academic problems?

__________________________________________