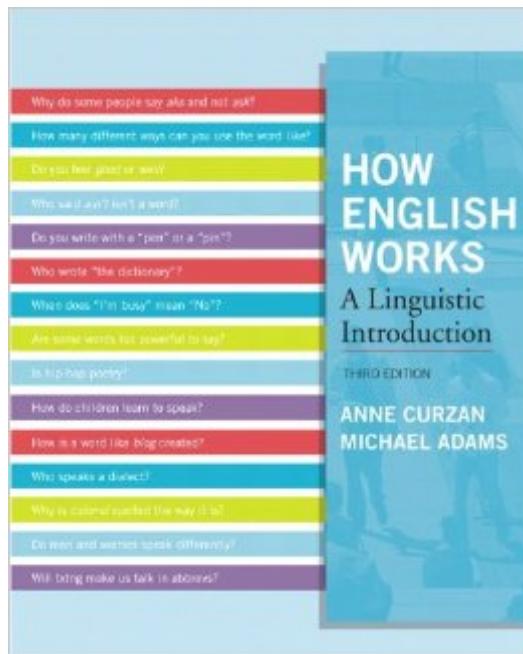


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# How English Works: A Linguistic Introduction (3rd Edition)



## Synopsis

A major introductory language/linguistics textbook written specifically for English and Education majors, this book is an engaging introduction to the structure of English, general theories in linguistics, and important issues in sociolinguistics. This accessible text provides more extensive coverage of issues of particular interest to English and Education majors. Tapping into our natural curiosity about language, it invites all students to connect academic linguistics to everyday use of the English language and to become active participants in the construction of linguistic knowledge. The second edition provides updated examples of language change—including new slang and other word coinages, grammatical developments, and sound changes—as well as new research findings on American dialects, language acquisition, language evolution, eggcorns, English and the Internet, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this book for a linguistics class. The class, admittedly, was not that exciting. And I only did the reading to complete the assignments. Compared to most grammar books I've encountered, however, this one did not put me to sleep immediately. The authors explain English rules very clearly, and the chapters cover almost all aspects of the language I can think of. Now, with my M.A. completed, I've begun teaching English to non-native speakers. I realized very quickly though that while I understood a lot on class design, assessment, and second language acquisition principles, my grammar knowledge was woefully inadequate. So, I went back to this text and began reading it to understand English so I could design relevant activities and provide clear explanations to my

students. Since then, the book has been immensely helpful. The sections on English syntax have been especially great for helping me understand how nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs function and change in different contexts AND WHY. This last part, of realizing that all of English's idiosyncrasies actually affect meaning is what makes this book 5 stars. It's great at explaining why English is as it is. As a native speaker of English, this book hasn't transformed my linguistic usage or accuracy, but it has helped me identify what linguistic problems non-native speakers are having, and design activities and instruction to help them. For its clarity in explaining how English works, and its helpfulness in explaining why it works as it does, I give it 5 stars. If you're planning on teaching English, especially to non-native speakers, I highly recommend this text. Note: It doesn't have activities for you to use, and it may not be a great text for having your students read, but it's engaging and very clear in explaining the principles and reasoning behind English, allowing you to design activities that bring out those points. Best regards, Devin

Love, love, love this book. For anyone who thinks grammar is a dry and boring subject, give this book a shot. It's written so well, with witty repartee and excellent story telling, you won't want to put it down! Yes, that's right. I said that you won't want to put a "grammar" book down. You can tell the editors really enjoy what they do, and they bring their joy in language construction and syntax to their readers. Must have!

I purchased this book for a graduate English studies course. I am an absolute fan of Anne Curzan. This text not only offers detailed instruction on linguistics, Curzan does a fantastic job of making it interesting and modern. It does not read like a traditional textbook, but like the jovial professor giving a detailed lecture in etymology and linguistic elements. Very well formatted and easy to read. Highly recommended for courses in linguistics and personal studies.

Purchased this for use in a grad school class and liked it enough to keep it for future reference. I'm not the kind of person to keep every single textbook I purchase and usually sell them used after the class ends. This one however is a keeper. Lots of interesting information that can be referenced time and again.

This is a really good book if you want to learn about phonetics and teaching using phonetics to ESL students.

This book was very easy to read while also providing useful and ingestible information for students and curious readers alike.

Very informative text. Even better, it's an easy, fun read. Full of visuals and pictures that add a lot to the topics.

Rich with research but very readable. A little dense for undergraduate students but great in a graduate class.

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