



Responses to

What, How and Why: a manual of better English

Did you ever think that you knew everything about the English language, but came unstuck when you tried to put it into words? Or do you lack confidence in your literacy levels? If so, then read this extremely useful manual on how the English language works. It contains very clear and relevant real-life examples that a range of readers can relate to: from secondary school pupils, to adults and tutors alike. I have not only used examples from this book successfully with KS3, GCSE and A Level English Language students, but also to refresh my own subject knowledge before teaching grammar in my classroom.

Brightly-coloured text boxes highlight key information and asterisks draw attention to main points that you need to remember. The activities and tests enable readers to consolidate their learning, recognise their progress and identify any aspects that they need to look over again. The 'essentials' sections provide quick and easy glossaries of technical terms, again with clear examples. There are lots of other useful tips for retaining learning and making helpful revision notes, with a good mixture of reading and writing tasks throughout. The author has also offered direct links to his website, in order to provide further assistance. His classroom experiences provide not only humour, but also reassurance that these approaches are successful. A super book! *Julia Hayden- English teacher*

You can see an interview with Julia and a former tearaway whom I helped at:

<http://www.peterinson.net/teacher-tearaway-praise-the-book/>

Responses from organisations

ARK Academies The textbook certainly does include a lot of the material we think is important, and that we want to teach. One of the reasons we like this so much is that there are lots of exercises and activities after every new or concept is introduced.

BBC Radio Essex Glad you enjoyed the interview. It made for a really good feature and we did have some really good listener interaction from listeners. We had a great call from a lady whose 19-year-old grandson said he felt let down by his teachers when it came to his literacy. I also took a couple of calls from people wanting to know where they could get your book once it is published, so I gave them your email address.

The Plain English Campaign Your 'English User's Manual' is an admirable attempt at drawing together a wide range of information and often very entertaining - a great idea.

The Princes Trust Princes Trust It sounds really interesting.

Education Otherwise We want to review the book as soon as it is published - it sounds like something that our readers would be interested in learning about.

Army Education Corps

It sounds like the book is something that could really help our learners, so I am very keen to see how we can utilise it.

Responses from individuals

Katy an English tutor based in Germany

I enjoyed what I read and I like your style - I enjoy your historical anecdotes, which explain things about my language that I never knew!

For people who have entered the working world and suddenly feel they wish they understood their own language better, so that they could put it to better use, this is an interesting book to have on your shelf at home or, if you are an employer wanting your employees to improve their skills, in the office.

Charlie, fifteen

I appreciated learning about faster communication with the written language. I liked the way you explained things.

I have noticed that there are some things that do make me laugh while reading which I think makes this book perfect for any student....this way the reader wouldn't get bored. I have noticed you have been putting words in Bold....this just makes everything much better. It's a good way of helping people identify the key words.

I think this book would be really good for my school work. It's easy to skip through and find the help and information you need.

Charlie's mother.

Having not been at school for many years now, and English not being my strongest subject, I was surprised that even I would be able to refer to these pages to assist my son with homework or revision. Great revision too, with quick, easy commentary pages to refer to.

There are great exercise pages that test you as you go along, and as, in my case, remind me to go back and read the previous page more carefully.

Layout – kept clear and simple

Information – easy to follow

Katya – an American former student of mine.

A very interesting manual, very insightful, easy to navigate and understand and short paragraphs with wording that does not discourage the reader with complexities etc. Would think this would do well for all walks of life and levels of English

James, eighteen.

You have created a virtual classroom where there was no sarcastic teacher and no bullies or disruptives, but only a teacher who encouraged students. You took me back to the classroom, prepared to learn this time, because you had removed aspects of many classrooms that students dislike.

Ben, fourteen

It was at this point I realized that you were moving through the different kinds of verbs in a certain order, which is more effective than jumbling up the verbs like other books I have seen. You always say, “we” and it helps the reader to feel like you are there beside them. You add a bit of humour that keeps the reader going after a lot of reading. You're managing to keep me interested with a variety of these small stories while the whole time I'm learning new things.

Liz, a tutor

Awesome - I love this and would definitely buy it. I'd also recommend it to my tutees, particularly years 9-11. I used bits of it with a very dyslexic year 10 student and she really appreciated how easy it was to understand. Clear, easily accessible, interesting and it has a lovely, friendly tone. Fabulous stuff!

A neighbour's son - From a U predicted to a C achieved

Earlier this year I agreed to help a local boy who had been predicted a U with GCSE English language. At primary school his reading age had been two years ahead of his peers.

In six sessions I worked with him through the first six chapters of my text book and he gained a C.