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**English Grammar
and World Englishes**

Tests with Keys



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A Tila

Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter.
Try again. Fail again. Fail better.

Samuel Beckett, *Wetward Ho*.

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Preface

This booklet contains all the English Grammar I and II exams held in the last years at the University Guglielmo Marconi in Rome, which consist of blended courses taught in English. It is ideally divided in two parts, the first part on English grammar from a functional perspective and the second part on the different features of Englishes around the world. The first seven chapters are divided according to the modules taught during the English Grammar I course, while the eighth chapter is entirely dedicated to World Englishes, without a precise order. The last chapter contains all the keys to the exercises proposed in the other chapters.

Aim of the book is to help students overcoming the difficulties encountered during the exams.

I am grateful to all the students that followed my video-lessons and did the online exercises, helping me shaping better tests to assess their acquired competences.

I would like to thank the staff at University Marconi for their professionalism, the Chancellor, prof.ssa Alessandra Briganti, and, last but not least, prof. Franca Orletti, friend and mentor from my undergraduate years onwards.

Introduction to the English language. Spoken vs.
Written – Formal vs. Informal language

1.1. Decide whether the following text is written or spoken. Then underline the features which show it is spoken OR written and explain why.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation)

right well um the whole thing happened er as a result of going back to university one day / this was when I was about nineteen in january 1983 er a friend of mine suddenly turned up er at a railway station my best friend just as I was about to get on the train / back to Reading and said I'll drive you back er I was delighted er partly as it was company and an adventure through half the country / so we started driving back and got desperately lost / we were trying to get back to Reading from just above Worcester we ended up near Bristol

1.2. Decide whether the following text is written or spoken. Then underline the features which show it is spoken OR written and explain why.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation)

sometimes I think I'm lucky to be alive / I can't help enjoying real-ly simple things because all the time I'm telling myself that I could be

dead instead / once for instance I could have died on the motorway / it was the beginning of my second term of my second year at university / I had spent Christmas with my parents / dad took me to the railway station at Kidderminster / I had to go to Birmingham and then change for Reading / as he shook my hand a yellow Ford drew up / my friend Paul was in it / he smiled roundly and said he had the day off so he'd drive me back to university / I accepted

1.3. Underline grammatical features in the following text which show that it is probably a written text. Give reasons for your decisions.

1. When you go to the polling station, tell the clerk your name and address as shown on the front of the card. The Presiding Officer will give you a ballot paper; see that (s)he stamps the official mark on it before (s)he gives it to you.
2. Go to one of the compartments. Mark only one cross (X) as stated in the polling booth in the box alongside the candidate you are voting for. Place only one mark on the ballot paper, or your vote will not be counted.
3. If by mistake you spoil a ballot paper, show it to the Presiding Officer and ask for another one.
4. Fold the ballot paper into two. Show the official mark to the Presiding Officer, but do not let anyone see your vote. Put the ballot paper in the ballot box and leave the polling station.
5. If you have appointed a proxy to vote in person for you, you may nevertheless vote at this election if you do so before the proxy has voted on your behalf.
6. If you have been granted a postal vote, you will not be entitled to vote in person at this election, so please ignore this poll card.

1.4. Explain what are the differences between formal and informal uses of English.

1.5. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation)

A: I mean I was saying to mum earlier that I'm actually thinking not for the money but for the sort of fun of it really trying to get a bar or a waitressing job I was saying to you wasn't I

B: Yeah

A: in the summer well over Christmas or Easter

1.6. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation)

A: Where were ... er yeah because I was saying to Ken that you wouldn't be in a pub at twelve o'clock in Corby would you you would have to be in somebody's house.

1.7. List and describe at least five features typical of informal talk

1.8. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation).

On the way we managed to park for five minutes er it was a queue of traffic lights (.) and we also tested y'know one or two of the beers

of the local area er y'know we found a really good one called Wadsworth Six erm

1.9. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation).

A: so weird ... and a lot of, you know people that we were meeting for the first time in Nottingham you know friends and relatives that we haven't really met before .. you know they would listen to the children and say ooh no they haven't really got, you know they haven't picked up the accent at all have they

B: mmm

A: and I'd think oh yes they have but they're just not using it

B: yeah yeah

A: because they've been back three days you know

B: yeah I know wh-, when I went in the army there was a boy there and he, he actually came from Pembroke in Wales you see so he had

C: oh that's where me mum comes from

1.10. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation).

B: he had that accent, that Welsh

C: mmm

B: accent ... and when I heard him talk I didn't know he was Welsh from Wales but ... I'd grown up ... of, as a kid with, next door to us was a French family who, they'd come over, the father worked for the Michelin tyre company which had just been built in

C: mmm

B: Stoke-on-Trent ... and, and uh this French family had two kids you know boy the same age as me and a little girl younger and he, he played with the rest of us you see and he very quickly picked up English

C: mmm

B: but ... oddly enough he, although he picked it all up he still had a French accent if you know what I mean

1.11. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation).

A: right I was thinking we could do em a round cake yeah like them small cakes we made

B: yeah

A: a round cake right?

B: yeah

A: and then you cooked it so it's nice and then em and then you put a teletubby in the middle

1.12. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation).

(If necessary use the sheets at the end of the paper)

A: I mean I was saying to mum earlier that I'm actually thinking not for the money but for the sort of fun of it really trying to get a bar or a waitressing job I was saying to you wasn't I

B: Yeah

A: in the summer well over Christmas or Easter

1.13. In English the placement of primary stress habitually moves when differentiating between nouns and verbs. Write the word in the next column and place the primary stress (‘) where you think appropriate.

<i>Verb</i>		<i>Noun</i>	
Irrigate		Irrigation	
Promulgate		Promulgation	
Elucidate		Elucidation	
Contract		Contract	
Record		Record	
Export		Export	

1.14. Write the following verbs in the appropriate column and explain your choices.

aid *continue* *cross off* *delete* *help*
cross off

<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>

1.15. Write the following verbs in the appropriate column and explain your choices.

continue *give in* *investigate* *keep on*

*look into**surrender*

<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>

1.16. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation).

Where were- yeah because I was saying to Ken that you wouldn't be in a pub at twelve o'clock in Corby would you you would have to be in somebody's house.

1.17. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

(NB: there is no conventional punctuation).

A major distinction between hard and soft knowledge areas is the extent to which succinctness and precision are valued, or even possible. Because of the linear, problem oriented nature of social sciences, research tends to be highly focused, with heavy investments in equipment and expertise devoted to specific goals.

1.18. Replace the underlined words with a suitable word or phrase which has a the same meaning in the context.

commence *keep an eye on* *fetch*
out of the blue *purchase* *stuff* *turn down*

1. I made him a good offer but he refused it
2. Do you want me to get your coat for you?
3. The film will start in five minutes.
4. Where can I leave my clothes?
5. There is a discount if you buy a certain quantity.
6. Then my parents arrived unexpectedly.
7. Could you look after my suitcase for a minute while I get a coffee?

1.19. Decide whether the following expressions are formal, informal or neutral. Write F, I, N, in the column below.

Get	
Sort	
Purchase	
Stuff	
Commence	
Vague	
Out of the blue	
Neutral	

1.20. Read carefully the text below. Decide whether it is a spoken or a written text and explain your choice with evidence from the text.

Two days after he refused to contemplate a treaty, the Prime Minister yesterday flatly rejected any suggestion of special or separate par-