
Preface

The Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar (ATEG) was born in the late 1980s with Edward Vavra's newsletter *Syntax in the Schools*, a forum for educators interested in the teaching of grammar and concerned about its neglect. The readers came together for the first ATEG conference at Dr. Vavra's institution, Shenandoah College in Winchester, Virginia, in 1989. Martha Kolln, from Pennsylvania State University, was elected president. In the years following, ATEG formally became an Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English. Its members hold an annual conference in July at different institutions around the country. ATEG's goal has remained to encourage the effective teaching of grammar and to provide a forum for discussions about grammar teaching. The Assembly now publishes *Syntax in the Schools* as a refereed journal and has a Web site at www.ateg.org as well as an active listserv.

This guide is the product of many years of ATEG members' excitement about the possibilities for teaching grammar and their dismay that the subject has remained so bogged down in outdated ideas and approaches. In 1998, a committee began work on a report that evolved into this book.

The several authors of the book have both written portions of it and helped revise one another's work, so the collaboration has been a rich one. The introduction was written by Brock Haussamen, with revisions by Amy Benjamin. The three goals for the teaching of grammar, laid out in Chapter 1, were first formulated by Johanna Rubba; the discussions of the goals were written by Brock Haussamen. Most of the suggestions for methods and lessons in Chapters 2, 3, and 4 were first written by Amy Benjamin and Johanna Rubba. The methodology portion of Chapter 2, "Discovering Grammar through Language Variety," was written by Rebecca Wheeler. Chapter 5, "Non-Native Speakers in the English Classroom," was adapted from the book *Differentiated Instruction: A Guide for Middle and High School* by Amy Benjamin; it is used with the permission of the publisher, Eye on Education. I'm grateful to Miriam Moore and Christine Herron of Raritan Valley Community College for suggesting additions to this material. "Grammar Superstitions: The Never-Never Rules," Chapter 6, was written by Amy Benjamin. Chapter 7, "Diagramming Sentences," and the grammar glossary were prepared by Brock Haussamen with help from Martha Kolln,

based on material from *Understanding English Grammar* by Martha Kolln and Robert Funk. Chapter 8, "An Overview of Linguistic Grammar," was written by Martha Kolln, who also contributed to the final edit of the whole manuscript. Chapters 3, 4, and the conclusion and portions of other sections were written by Brock Haussamen, who also organized and edited the entire book. The vignettes are signed by the authors. Additional ATEG members who commented on early drafts are Pam Dykstra, Loretta Gray, Edith Wollin, and Robert Yates. Finally, NCTE Senior Editor Zarina Hock and several anonymous readers made many helpful suggestions about additions to the original manuscript as well as improvements throughout the text.

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