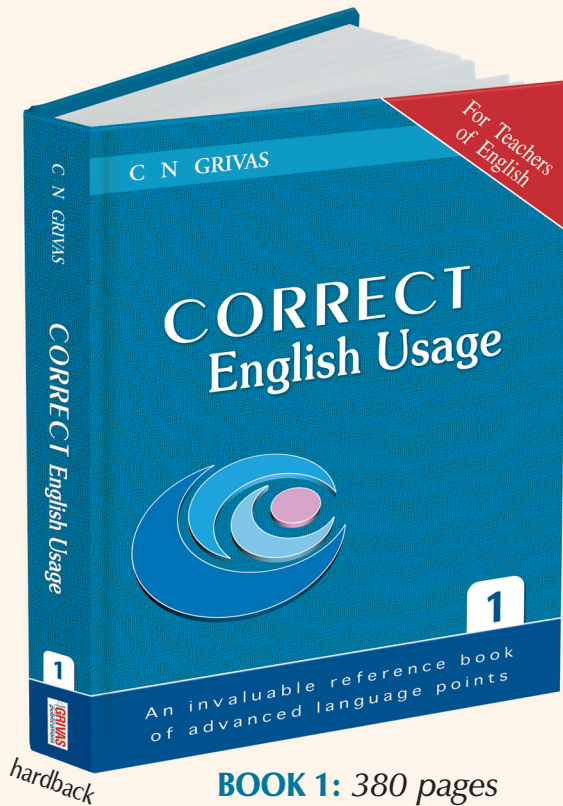
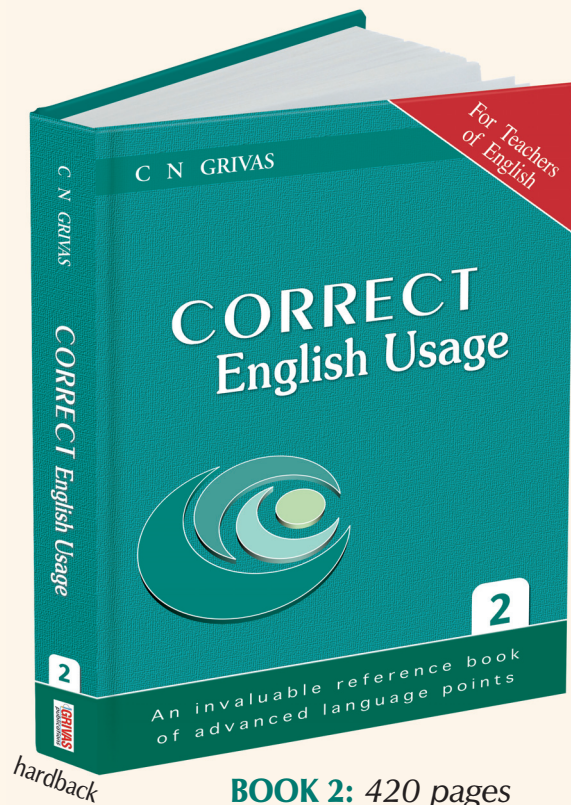


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SAMPLE ENTRIES

almost – nearly

The word **almost** designates a smaller degree or a shorter space than **nearly**.

COMPARE:

It's almost twelve o'clock. (= perhaps 11.55)

It's nearly twelve o'clock. (= perhaps 11.45)

Similarly: A book that is **almost** completed is nearer its completion than one that is **nearly** completed.

as soon as

They'll arrive at the hotel as soon as we will.

The use of 'will' in this sentence is correct because 'as soon as' means **τόσο γρήγορα όσο** (which is a true comparative), and **not μόλις** (in which case **will** would be wrong).

Note that in everyday English in the above example, we can also use a simple present tense:

They'll arrive at the hotel as soon as we do.

Similarly: *She'll be on the same boat as we are / will tomorrow.*

I'll get there much sooner than you do / will.

at

When **at** is used after verbs such as **clutch**, **grab**, **kick**, etc., it indicates an attempt to do sth (which may or may not be successful).

He grabbed her arm and pulled her away.

(= Την άρπαξε απ' το χέρι και ...)

He grabbed at her arm, but missed.

(= Προσπάθησε να την αρπάξει απ' το χέρι αλλά ...)

cosmetics

(in a department store)

Customer: *Are you in / on cosmetics?*

(= Εσείς είστε εδώ στα καλλυντικά;)

Assistant: *Yes. Can I help you?*

Note that, in AmE especially, the prepositions **in** / **on** may sometimes be dropped: *Excuse me, are you cosmetics?*

Similarly: *Are you (in / on) swimwear / menswear?*

crash

1 *A lot of aeroplanes crashed* (= έπεσαν) *last year.* [**NOT:** ... fell down ...]

OR: *A lot of aeroplanes went down last year.*

Note the following sentence:

Two small aeroplanes crashed this morning.

This sentence is ambiguous, meaning either 'έπεσαν' or 'συγκρούστηκαν'.

especially

incorrect: Mediterranean people are very friendly. Especially the Greeks make visitors feel welcome.

correct: Mediterranean people are very friendly. The Greeks especially make visitors feel welcome.

[Especially should not be placed at the beginning of a sentence before the subject, but after it.]

How do you do?

The traditional reply to this greeting is: 'How do you do?' However, as it is becoming less common, the alternative answer 'Fine, thank you / thanks.' can be heard (although there are some people who object to this).

Tony: *This is my friend Tom.*

Jane: *How do you do?*

Tom: *Fine, thanks.*

Note that nowadays, when people are introduced, they often say, 'How are you?' instead of 'How do you do?'

Tony: *This is my friend Tom.*

Jane: *How are you?*

if + would if + simple past

If + would can occur in 2nd conditional sentences on some rare occasions.

COMPARE:

I'd eat that fruit if it wouldn't bother my stomach.

This structure means: 'I won't eat that fruit because it will bother my stomach'. [This refers to the specific occasion.]

If we said,

I'd eat that fruit if it didn't bother my stomach.'

this would mean: 'I won't eat that fruit because it bothers my stomach'. [This is what happens every time.]

marriage

correct: He has a child by a previous marriage.

correct: He has a child from a previous marriage.

incorrect: He has a child from his ex-wife.

correct: He has a child by / with his ex-wife.

present continuous / progressive

In letter writing, we use either the present continuous or the simple present with certain verbs such as **write**, **enclose** and **send** in the first person singular / plural.

I am writing / I write to inform you that ...

I am enclosing / I enclose my CV ...

In business and legal communications, the present simple is more common.

present perfect simple – present perfect continuous

1 In informal and journalistic English, the present perfect simple may sometimes occur instead of the simple past tense.

A man has been arrested late last night.

The army has staged a coup yesterday.

2 The verbs **want** and **mean** can be used in the present perfect continuous to emphasise that something is / has been on the speaker's mind.

I've been wanting to see this play for ages.

I've been meaning to say something about your son's behaviour.

3 The form **has / have gone** sometimes occurs instead of **has / have been** in informal AmE.

Have you ever gone to China?

tour

incorrect: The band is going on a tour in America.

correct: The band is going on a tour of America.

But we can say: The band is *on tour in* America.

■ **Note also:** *The Queen is making a ten-day tour of Australia.*

Here are some of the advanced language points the books deal with:

① WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES ARE CORRECT?

- 1 She gave birth by Caesarean (section).
- 2 We blew a tyre on the way to Oxford.
- 3 The child was held to ransom.
- 4 He was elected for the Greek Parliament in 2009.
- 5 She'll drive herself to exhaustion before she will ask for help.
- 6 How many candidates participated in the exam?
- 7 The refugees arrived by dozens.
- 8 Believe you me, that boy is going to come to a bad end.
- 9 He died while he was on an expedition in the North Pole.
- 10 The interviewer asked her to speak on the microphone.
- 11 Of 100 arrests made, there were only 25 people charged.
- 12 You've read my thought.

② ALL THESE SENTENCES ARE INCORRECT. WHY?

- 1 I'm going home to change suit.
- 2 The salad is enough for everybody.
- 3 He bought a five-day pass for Disneyland.
- 4 His best friend is six feet five.
- 5 Undoubtedly, there is God.
- 6 He wrote a book about the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974.
- 7 They're going to have a religious wedding.
- 8 When she was pregnant to her first child, she ...
- 9 She sent him a letter of condolences.
- 10 He's surfing in the Internet.
- 11 He survived in the earthquake.
- 12 I have no intention to waste your time.