

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**Grammar I**

**Course Blackboard site:** [wtma.blackboard.com](http://wtma.blackboard.com)

**Required Text:**

*Grammar for the Well Trained Mind, Red Student Workbook*

Recommended Texts:

*The Grammar Guidebook*

*The Diagramming Dictionary*

**Course Description:**

Foundational English grammar crash course: a survey of essential grammar concepts and skills, for students who do not have a solid grasp of basic grammar. This course covers parts of speech and their uses, mechanics, verb tenses, and fundamental skills in diagramming.

**Written Assignments:**

*Weekly workbook assignments (45%):* Students must complete exercises during the week after topics are covered. If there are any questions on assignments, I am available for office hours to discuss. Each assignment will be given a grade. Most of the exercises will be completed in Blackboard itself, but some sentence diagrams will need to be scanned in and submitted. If an extension is required, please request the extension 24 hours in advance of the due date.

**Take Five!**

*Participation (15%)* Each week, students will submit five complete sentences summarizing the content of the lecture. This, along with classroom interaction (for live lecture students), will determine the participation grade.

**Quizzes and Tests:**

*Regular grammar quizzes (20%):* Quizzes will be given covering the material taught in the previous weeks.

*Tests (20%):* There will be one mid-term and one final. Each test will include short definitions, exercises to be completed, and diagramming assignments.

**Example schedule:**

**Week One: Nouns**

Definition of a noun  
Common and proper nouns  
Forming plural nouns  
Abstract/concrete nouns

**Week Two: Adjectives**

Definition of an adjective

Descriptive adjectives  
Proper adjectives  
Compound adjectives

**Week Three: Pronouns**

Definition of a pronoun  
Personal pronouns  
Antecedents

**Week Four: Verbs**

Definition of action verbs  
State of being verbs  
Helping verbs

**Week Five: The Sentence, Part I**

Parts of speech vs. parts of the sentence  
Diagramming subjects/predicates  
Fragments

**Week Six: The Sentence, Part II**

Simple and complete subjects, predicates  
The four sentence types  
The understood (you)

**Week Seven: Verb Tenses, Part I**

Simple past, present, future tenses  
Progressive past, present, future tenses

**Week Eight: Verb Tenses, Part II**

Perfect past, present, future tenses  
Irregular verbs

**Week Nine: Midterm**

Review for Midterm Exam

**Week Ten: More About Verbs**

Verb phrases  
Person of the verb  
Conjugations  
Irregular state-of-being verbs

**Week Eleven: Nouns and Verbs in the Sentence**

Subject-Predicate agreement  
Collective nouns  
Possessive Adjectives

Contractions  
Compound nouns  
Adding adjectives to diagrams

**Week Twelve: Compounds and Conjunctions**

Compound subjects/predicates  
Definition of conjunctions  
Article adjectives  
Compound subject-predicate agreement  
Complications in subject-predicate agreement

**Week Thirteen: Objects**

Definition of direct objects  
Diagramming direct objects

**Week Fourteen: The Preposition**

Definition of a preposition  
The object of a preposition  
The prepositional phrase

**Week Fifteen: Adverbs**

Definition of an adverb  
Types of adverbs: those that tell how, when, where, how often, to what extent

**Week Sixteen: Course Review**

**Week Seventeen: Final Exam**

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**Grammar II**

**Course Blackboard site:** [wtma.blackboard.com](http://wtma.blackboard.com)

**Required Text:**

*Grammar for the Well Trained Mind, Red Workbook*

Recommended Texts:

*The Grammar Guidebook*

*The Diagramming Dictionary*

**Course Description**

Basic English grammar course: for students who have a solid understanding of basic grammar concepts. Builds on foundational skills and explores the definitions and functions of all parts of speech, reinforces mechanics, enhances understanding of verb tenses, and practices fundamental skills in diagramming. **This course assumes that the student has completed Grammar I or has [passed the placement test](#) for this course.**

**Written Assignments:**

*Weekly workbook assignments (45%):* Students must complete exercises during the week after topics are covered. Each assignment will be given a grade. Most of the exercises will be completed in Blackboard itself, but some sentence diagrams will need to be scanned in and submitted.

*Participation (15%):* Each week, students will submit five complete sentences summarizing the content of the lecture (called the Take Five! assignment). This, along with classroom interaction (for live lecture students), will determine the participation grade.

**Quizzes and Tests**

*Regular grammar quizzes (20%):* Quizzes will be given covering the material taught in the previous weeks.

*Tests (20%):* There will be one midterm and one final. Each test will include short definitions, exercises to be completed, and diagramming assignments.

**Example schedule:**

**Week 1: Nouns and Pronouns**

The role of nouns and pronouns in a sentence

Types of nouns and pronouns (common/proper, concrete/abstract, collective)

**\Week 2: Modifiers**

Adjectives and adverbs  
Compound adjectives and adverbs  
Demonstrative adjectives/pronouns  
Interrogative pronouns/adjectives

**Week 3: Objects**

Indirect objects  
Diagramming indirect objects  
Direct objects  
Objects of prepositions

**Week 4: Linking Verbs and Subject Complements**

Linking Verbs  
Predicate Adjectives  
Predicate Nominatives

**Week 5: Object Complements**

Object complement adjectives  
Object complement nouns  
Diagramming complements

**Week 6: Prepositional Phrases, Part I**

The Prepositional Phrase  
Prepositional phrases as adjectives  
Prepositional phrases as adverbs

**Week 7: Prepositional Phrases, Part II**

Phrases as misplaced modifiers  
Phrases as other parts of speech

**Week 8: More About Verbs**

Helping verbs/verb phrases  
Tenses: Simple past, simple present, and simple future tenses;  
Progressive past, progressive present, and progressive future tenses;  
Perfect past, perfect present, perfect future tenses  
Principal parts of verbs

**Week 9: Midterm Exam**

**Week 10: More About Pronouns**

Possessive pronouns

Pronoun case

Indefinite pronouns

**Week 11: Voices of the Verb**

Tricky verbs

Active voice verbs

Passive voice verbs

**Week 12: Adverbs and more verbs**

Review of adverbs/types of adverbs

Diagramming of adverbs

Transitive verbs

Intransitive verbs

**Week 13: Specialized Pronouns**

Intensive Pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns

**Week 14: More Pronouns**

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative Adjectives

Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative Adjectives

**Week 15: Diagramming Intensive**

**Week 16: Comprehensive Course Review**

**Week 17: Final Exam**

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**Grammar III Syllabus**

**Course Blackboard site:** [wtma.blackboard.com](http://wtma.blackboard.com)

**Required Text:**

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Recommended Texts:

*The Grammar Guidebook*

*The Diagramming Dictionary*

**Course Description:**

An advanced English grammar course for students who have mastered basic and intermediate concepts but have not studied advanced sentence structure and function. We will cover modifiers, advanced verbs, troublesome grammatical elements, and diagramming.

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*Weekly workbook assignments (45%):* Students must complete exercises during the week after topics are covered. Each assignment will be given a grade. Most of the exercises will be completed in Blackboard itself, but some sentence diagrams will need to be scanned in and submitted.

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**Quizzes and Tests**

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**Example schedule:**

**Week 1: Review of Nouns, Pronouns, Modifiers**

Types of nouns: common, proper, collective, abstract, concrete

Types of pronouns: personal, possessive, indefinite, demonstrative, intensive, reflexive

Pronoun review

Intensive and reflexive pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns/adjectives

Interrogative pronouns/adjectives

Indefinite Pronouns

Diagramming overview

**Week 2: Sentences beginning with Adverbs; Introduction to Imposters**

Adverbs that start sentences  
Imposters: Verbs acting as other parts of speech

**Week 3: Imposters, part 1**

Past participles acting as adjectives  
Present participles acting as adjectives  
Diagramming participles

**Week 4: Imposters, part 2**

Present participles acting as nouns (gerunds)  
Diagramming gerunds

**Week 5: Imposters, part 3**

Infinitives  
Diagramming infinitives

**Week 6: Imposters in Phrases**

Gerund, Participial, and Infinitive phrases

**Week 7: Comparatives and superlatives**

Comparative and superlative adjectives  
Comparative and superlative adverbs  
Irregular comparatives and superlatives

**Week 8: The conjunction**

Coordinating conjunctions  
Correlative conjunctions  
Subordinating conjunctions

**Week 9: Midterm**

**Week 10: Clauses, part 1**

The definition of a clause  
Adjective clauses  
Relative pronouns

**Week 11: Clauses, part 2**

Adjective clauses and relative pronouns  
Adjective clauses and relative adverbs  
Adjective clauses with understood relative pronouns  
Adverb clauses



**Week 12: Clauses, part 3**

Noun clauses

Clauses beginning with prepositions

**Week 13: Clauses, part 4**

Restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses

Misplaced clauses and phrases

**Week 14: Sentences According to Structure, Part I**

Constructing sentences

Simple sentences

Compound sentences

**Week 15: Sentences According to Structure, Part II**

Complex sentences

Compound-complex sentences

**Week 16: Course Review**

**Week 17: Final Exam**

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**Grammar IV**

**Course Blackboard site:** [wtma.blackboard.com](http://wtma.blackboard.com)

**Required Text:**

*Grammar for the Well Trained Mind, Red Workbook*

Recommended Texts:

*The Grammar Guidebook*

*The Diagramming Dictionary*

**Course Description**

A truly advanced English grammar course for students who have mastered basic and intermediate concepts but have not studied advanced sentence structure and function. We will cover modifiers, advanced verbs, troublesome grammatical elements, and diagramming.

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**Quizzes and Tests**

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*Tests (20%):* There will be one midterm and one final. Each test will include short definitions, exercises to be completed, and diagramming assignments.

**Example Schedule:**

**Week 1: Verb review, moods of verbs**

Review of simple, progressive, and perfect tenses

New: Indicative, subjunctive, imperative, modal moods

**Week 2: Conditions**

Clauses with understood elements

Run-on sentences

The comma splice

The conditional/consequence clauses

**Week 3: Parenthetical Elements**

Parenthetical expressions  
Dashes  
Diagramming parenthetical expressions

**Week 4: Dialogue and Quotations**

Writing dialogue  
Ellipses  
Partial quotations  
Block quotes, colons, brackets

**Week 5: Floating elements**

Interjections  
Nouns of Direct Address  
Appositives  
Noun clauses in apposition  
Absolute constructions

**Week 6: Complex Verb Tenses**

Progressive perfect tenses  
Progressive present and perfect present modal verbs  
More on subjunctive mood

**Week 7: More Modifiers**

Adjective positions (attributive, predicative, appositive)  
Limiting adjectives  
Squinting modifiers  
Dangling modifiers  
Comparisons using *more*, *fewer*, *less*

**Week 8: Double Identities**

Words that can be multiple parts of speech  
Quasi-coordinators

**Week 9: Midterm****Week 10: More Double identities**

Nouns as other parts of speech  
Adverbial nouns

**Week 11: Still More Verbs**

Hortative verbs  
Ambitransitive verbs  
Infinitive phrases as direct objects  
Infinitive phrases with understood “to”

**Week 12: More About Clauses**

The *which/that* rule  
Restrictive/non-restrictive clauses  
Conditional sentences as dependent clauses

**Week 13: Filling up the corners**

Interrogative adverbs  
Affirmations and negations  
Double negatives  
Comparisons using “as”  
Idioms

**Week 14: Sentence Style, Part I**

Equal sentences: Segregating, freight-train, balanced

**Week 15: Sentence Style, Part II**

Subordinating sentences: Loose, cumulative, periodic, convoluted, and centered

**Week 16: More on Documentation; Mechanics**

Letter writing  
Using italics  
Documentation

**Week 17: Final Exam**

*Well-Trained Mind Academy*

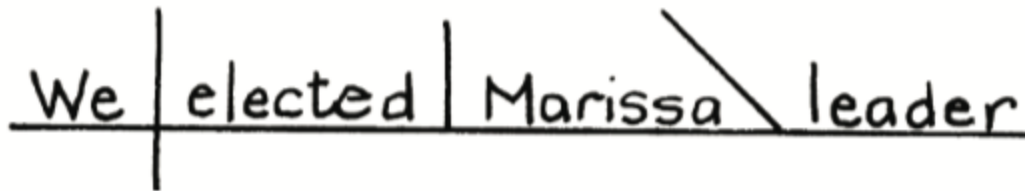
*Diagnostic Test*

*For placement in Grammar II or Grammar III for The Well-Trained Mind*

*Updated 12/18/19*

1. Which of the following nouns is collective?
  - A. Dogs
  - B. Jury
  - C. Cups
  - D. Books
  
2. What is the demonstrative pronoun in the following sentence?  
*That is the book she gave to the class.*
  
3. Please identify the indirect object in the following sentence:  
*I cooked my family a lovely dinner.*
  
4. What type of verb always precedes a predicate adjective?
  - A. Action
  - B. State of Being
  - C. Linking
  - D. Coordinating
  
5. What is the function of the highlighted word in the following sentence?  
*The winner was **Carla**.*
  - A. Predicate nominative
  - B. Direct object
  - C. Predicate adjective
  - D. Indirect object

6. In the following sentence diagram, what is the identity of the word *leader*?



- A. Predicate nominative
  - B. Object complement noun
  - C. Indirect object
  - D. Subject
7. Identify the prepositional phrase in the following sentence:  
*While we were eating, the dogs were sleeping under the table.*
8. Identify the object of the preposition in the following sentence:  
*Did you get a picture of the beautiful moon?*
9. What is the subject of the following sentence?  
*Close the door.*
10. What word does the prepositional phrase modify in the following sentence?  
*We swam to the shore.*
11. What verb tense is being used in the following sentence?  
*Malcolm was studying for the test.*
- A. Past progressive
  - B. Present progressive
  - C. Simple past
  - D. Perfect past

12. What verb tense is being used in the following sentence?

*Wanda had prepared a speech.*

- A. Past progressive
- B. Present progressive
- C. Simple past
- D. Perfect past

13. A subject pronoun can be used in a sentence to replace either a subject or a \_\_\_\_\_.

14. Rewrite the following sentence, changing it from active to passive:

*The explorers found an undiscovered lake.*

15. Identify all adverbs in the following sentence:

*The very tiny bird chirped quietly.*

16. Is the highlighted pronoun intensive or reflexive?

*The queen **herself** gave the awards to the heroes.*

17. Diagram every word in the following sentence:

*Hank Aaron swung the bat through the air with great confidence.*

18. Diagram every word in the following sentence:

*Tiny hummingbirds sipped sweet nectar.*

19. Choose the correct word in parentheses:

*The champion was (her, she).*

20. A verb that is followed by a direct object is \_\_\_\_\_.

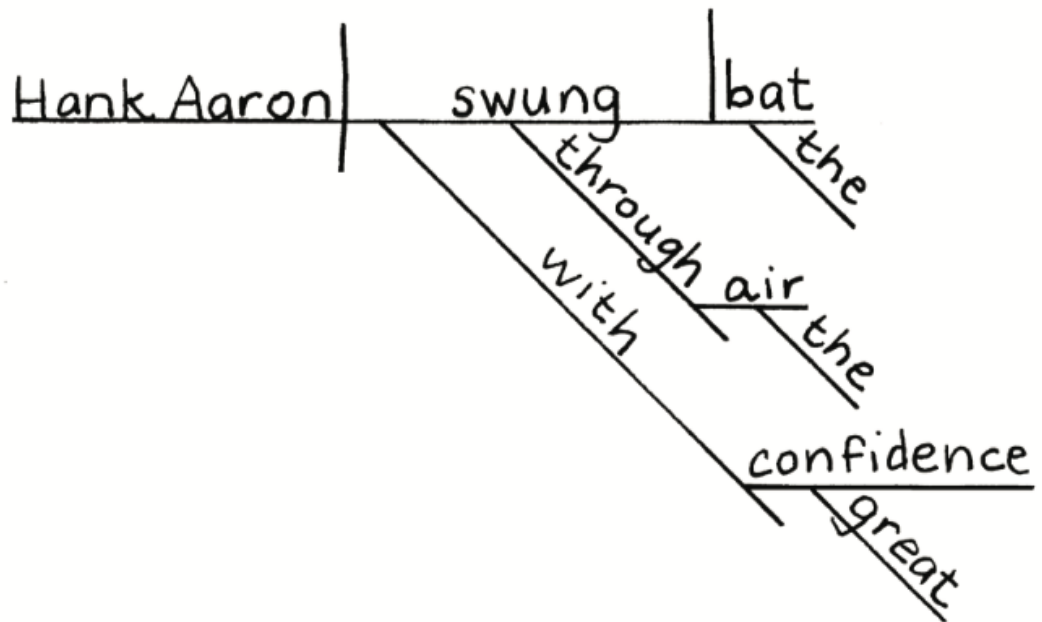
- A. Linking
- B. State of Being
- C. Intransitive
- D. Transitive

Answer Key

Students who answer 16 or more questions correctly should sign up for Grammar III.

Students who answer 15 or fewer questions correctly should sign up for Grammar II.

1. B. Jury
2. that
3. family
4. C. Linking
5. A. Predicate nominative
6. B. Object complement noun
7. under the table
8. moon
9. (you)
10. swam
11. A. Past progressive
12. A. Perfect past
13. predicate nominative
14. An undiscovered lake was found by the explorers.
15. very, quietly
16. Intensive
- 17.



18.



hummingbirds | sipped | nectar  
Tiny sweet

19. she

20. D. Transitive

*Well-Trained Mind Academy*

*Diagnostic Test*

*For placement in Grammar III or Grammar IV for The Well-Trained Mind*

*Updated 12/18/19*

1. Identify all adverbs in the following sentence:  
*There is an extremely large moth!*
  
2. Identify the present participle in the following sentence:  
*The freezing wind blows across the lake.*
  
3. Identify the past participle in the following sentence:  
*The prize was an engraved trophy.*
  
4. What part of the sentence is the gerund acting as in the following sentence?  
*Swimming was her favorite summer activity.*
  
5. What part of the sentence is the infinitive phrase acting as in the following sentence?  
*Our chore was to clean the horse's stall.*
  
6. Is the highlighted adjective comparative or superlative?  
*I gave the game my **best** effort.*
  
7. Identify the conjunction in the following sentence:  
*Scents of pumpkin and chocolate filled the air.*
  
8. What type of conjunction is used as part of a pair, such as *either/or*?
  - A. Coordinating
  - B. Correlative
  - C. Subordinating
  - D. Appositive
  
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ has both a subject and a verb.
  - A. Phrase
  - B. Gerund
  - C. Clause
  - D. Participle

10. The words *that, which, who, whom, whose* are known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Relative pronouns
- B. Relative adverbs
- C. Relative conjunctions
- D. Relative adjectives

11. Identify the dependent clause in the following sentence:

*The gift that I bought must be returned.*

12. The highlighted clause is acting as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ clause:

*Gabe walked to the park **where we were meeting.***

- A. Noun
- B. Adjective
- C. Adverb

13. The highlighted clause is acting as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ clause:

*Jackie did not know **that the toddler loved green beans.***

- A. Noun
- B. Adjective
- C. Adverb

14. Identify the sentence type:

*The horses, the sheep, and the cows all ran from the storm.*

- A. Simple
- B. Compound
- C. Complex
- D. Compound-Complex

15. Identify the sentence type:

*Carlos knew what the surprise was, but he didn't tell anyone.*

- A. Simple
- B. Compound
- C. Complex
- D. Compound-Complex

16. Rewrite the following sentence, correcting all misplaced modifiers:

*The lady picked the apple with large earrings.*

17. Is the highlighted clause restrictive or non-restrictive?

*This book, **which is my favorite**, has been made into a movie.*

18-20. Please diagram every word of the following sentences:

A. They are men whose happiness lies in ambition.

B. I know where your lost keys are.

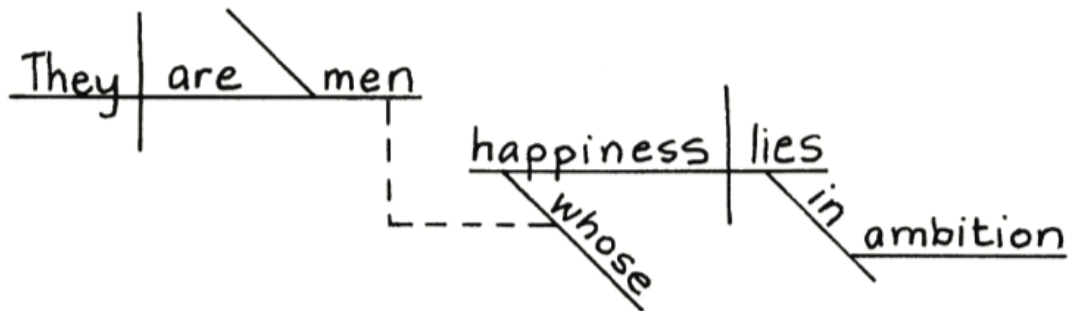
C. Whoever runs fastest will win the race.

Answer Key

Students who answer 16 or more questions correctly should sign up for Grammar IV.

Students who answer 15 or fewer questions correctly should sign up for Grammar III.

1. There, extremely
2. freezing
3. engraved
4. subject.
5. predicate nominative
6. superlative
7. and
8. B. Correlative
9. C. Clause
10. A. Relative pronouns
11. "that I bought"
12. B. Adjective
13. A. Noun
14. A. Simple
15. D. Compound-Complex
16. The lady with large earrings picked the apple.
17. Non-restrictive



18.

