



# MY GRAMMAR AND I

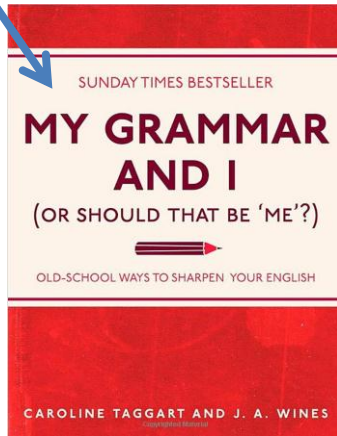
(OR SHOULD THAT BE 'ME'?)

OLD-SCHOOL WAYS TO SHARPEN YOUR ENGLISH

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Michael O'Mara Books

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*Can you tell when a sentence contains more clichés than you've had hot dinners? Is a preposition necessarily a bad thing to end a sentence with? Are you able to immediately spot a split infinitive?*

*Whether your schooling in English grammar amounted to 'a verb is a doing word and a noun is a naming word', or whether you simply want to brush up your existing skills, this wittily observed book is guaranteed to enlighten and entertain.*

*'.....WILL DO FOR GRAMMAR WHAT EATS, SHOTS AND LEAVES DID FOR PUNCTUATION.'*

THE TIMES

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## SAY WHAT? (OR, PARTS OF SPEECH)

Every word in every language can be categorized according to its grammatical function, which is what we mean by **parts of speech**.

*Every name is called a NOUN,  
As **field** and **fountain**, **street** and **town**;*

*In place of noun the PRONOUN stands  
As **he** and **she** can clap **their** hands;*

*The ADJECTIVE describes a thing,  
As **magic** wand and **bridal** ring;*

*The VERB means action, something done-  
**To read, to write, to jump, to run**;*

*How things are done, the ADVERBS tell,  
As **quickly**, **slowly**, **badly**, **well**;*

*The PREPOSTION shows relation,  
As **in** the street, or **at** the station;*

*CONJUNCTIONS join, in many ways,  
Sentences, words **or** phrase **and** phrase;*

*The INTERJECTION cries out, '**Hark!**  
I need an exclamation mark!'*

*Through poetry, we learn how each  
Of these make up THE PARTS OF SPEECH*

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## Getting tense

**Tenses** add time to verbs. They put actions into the past, present and future, the may-yet-be or the might-have-been.

In 'Getting tense', I have altered the non-countable noun 'ballet' to 'Aviation English' because pilots don't do ballet. Or do they.....?  
**Altered parts are marked in blue**

**I do** *Aviation English* on Tuesdays.

I do this habitually, and will continue to do this.

**I am doing** *Aviation English* at the moment

I am doing this either right at this moment – so I can't come to the phone – or over a longer but current period of time: perhaps I used to do *Spanish* but have changed.

**I have done** *Spanish* for years.

I did *Spanish* in the past and up to and including the present, But I may be getting bored with it now.

**I have been doing** *Aviation English* for years.

I did *Aviation English* in the past and have continued it until the present time and probably will continue in the future. I haven't finished with it yet. *Aviation English* is here for the duration.

**I did do** *Spanish* once upon a time.

I did *Spanish* at some indefinite time in the past. It belongs there. I have given it up in the present.

**I used to do** *Spanish*, but now I do *Aviation English*.

I no longer do *Spanish*.

**I was doing** *Aviation English* on Tuesdays, but now they've changed it to Fridays.

I was doing *Aviation English* on Tuesdays until recently. I may or may not be doing it on Fridays.

**I would do** *Aviation English* if they hadn't changed the class to a Friday.

If it could be changed to suit me, I would consider doing *Aviation English* in the future

**I had done** *Spanish* for years, before I changed to *Aviation English*.

I had given up *Spanish* before I took up *Aviation English*. There is nothing to suggest whether or not I am still doing *Aviation English*.

**I had been doing** *Spanish* for years before anyone told me *Aviation English* was better.

I was still doing *Spanish* – the action was ongoing – at some time in the past when something else happened.

**I shall do** *Spanish* again one day.

I intend to/predict that I shall do *Spanish* in the future.

**I shall have done** my *Aviation English* exam by the time we go on holiday.

A future action will be completed by or before a specified time in the future.

**I shall be doing** the *Aviation English* test on Saturday.

It is definitely going to happen at this specific point in the future.

Many thanks to the publisher **Michael O'Mara Books**  
and to **Caroline Taggart and J.A. Wines** for writing this brilliant book,  
which is indeed **guaranteed to enlighten and entertain.**