

Reflect:

1 Think about your own experience of learning English grammar. What approach did your teachers use?

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2 What are the advantages to students of learning grammar as a set of rules?

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3 What are the advantages to students of learning grammar through functions?

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4 Might a functional approach to learning grammar leave anything out? If so, what?

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5 Which areas of grammar lend themselves best to a functional approach? Why?

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Discuss:

If you have someone to discuss with, compare your answers. If any are different, think about why.

Explore:

1 List three ways in which **Collins COBUILD English Grammar** can be described as a functional grammar.

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- 2 Identify four different traditional grammar topics and decide how they might be 'repackaged' as topics for a functional grammar.

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- 3 Do you agree with either of the following comments? Why? /Why not?

'It's much easier to teach grammar as a set of rules. It makes learning and testing more straightforward and it helps students to feel that they're making progress.'

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'Functional grammar is a convenient get-out for teachers who haven't studied, and don't know much about, the rules of grammar.'

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- 4 What advice would you give to a teacher planning to teach a group of upper-intermediate learners using a functional approach to teaching grammar?

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- 5 How might a negotiator soften their message using comparative forms and modals? Give examples.

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- 6 Match the academic English functions on the left with the sentence connectors on the right.

Functions	Sentence connectors
indicating further argument	accordingly, as a result, as a consequence, consequently, hence, thereby, therefore, thus
indicating a similar situation	in order to, so that, lest
indicating contrast	again, equally, likewise, similarly
indicating cause	additionally, in addition, also, furthermore, moreover
indicating purpose	alternatively, in contrast, conversely, even so, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, although

If you have a copy of **Collins COBUILD English Grammar**, you can check your answers to Questions 5 and 6 in the two sections: 'The grammar of business English' and the 'The grammar of academic English' towards the end of the book.