**Reflect:**

1. Think back to your experience of learning about your own language at school. Do you remember being taught any 'rules-as-regulations'? If so, give an example.

2. Are there any advantages to learning prescriptive rules? If so, what are they?

3. As a teacher, what would you tell your students about putting a preposition at the end of a sentence?

4. Give two examples of 'rules-as-regularities'.

5. Name three ways of keeping up with developments in the grammar of a language.

**Discuss:**

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

**Explore:**

1. Name two ways in which **Collins COBUILD English Grammar** can be described as a descriptive grammar.

2. Identify two 'rules-as-regulations' and decide how you would present them to a learner of English.
3. Do you agree with either of the following comments? Why? / Why not?

‘All grammars are prescriptive, even if the writer says otherwise. They tell us what is right and wrong, and how we should speak.’

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‘Students want and need to be given rules. A descriptive grammar is too complex and leaves the user feeling even more unsure of how best to use the language.’

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4. Are the following statements rules-as-regulations (1) or rules-as-regularities (2)? Write ‘1’ or ‘2’.

   a. Don't split infinitives.       ___
   b. You add -s to regular 3rd person singular verbs in the present simple. ___
   c. A modal verb is followed by an infinitive without to. ___
   d. Don't start a sentence with a conjunction. ___
   e. When a noun ends in /tʃ/, the plural is pronounced /z/. ___
   f. We use the present progressive to talk about fixed plans. ___
   g. A sentence must always contain a verb. ___
   h. Don't end a sentence with a preposition. ___

5. Write a short grammar explanation of how the relative pronouns who and whom are used in English. If you have access to a copy of Collins COBUILD English Grammar, compare your explanation with the one at 1.147. Note any similarities or differences.

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6. Some countries have an ‘academy’ – an organization whose aim is to ‘uphold the standards’ of the country’s official language. What are the benefits and drawbacks of such an academy?

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Answers: ‘Explore’, Ex 4: a 1, b 2, c 1, d 1, e 2, f 2, g 1, h 1.

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