

*Ek is bang vir spinnekoppe.*  
*I am afraid of spiders.*

*Frequent errors*

X X  
*I stay by my parents. (live with)*  
X X  
*He went with the car. (by car)*

This approach highlights some of the preposition errors often made by Afrikaans-speaking students and also explains why the error has been made.

Not only are the most common grammatical mistakes dealt with, but the student is also given excellent guidance on paragraph writing, the development of ideas when writing essays, coherence and relevance in one's work, and the correct way to quote from a primary or secondary source in a literary essay.

I think this should prove to be a very helpful book and should be on the bookshelf of every student who is serious about not Writing Wrong English!

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Bosewitz, R. *Penguin Students' Grammar of English*. Harmondsworth: Penguin. 1987.

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The *Penguin Students' Grammar of English* is written for students who, although they have a basic knowledge of English, do not understand its structures completely. In the introduction, René Bosewitz explain that 'this book (1) gives an overview of the main

structures of English in context, (2) isolates the form of individual structures, and (3) explains when and how they are used in communication'.

Apart from the customary table of contents at the beginning of the book, each chapter has its own table of contents, enabling the reader to see at a glance which aspects are dealt with in each chapter. For example, Chapter 19 is entitled **Conditional Sentences** and has the following table of contents:

19.1	<i>First conditional</i>	page 201
19.2	<i>Second conditional</i>	202
19.2.1	<i>Second conditional - was or were</i>	203
19.3	<i>Third conditional</i>	204
19.4	<i>Bird's eye box (conditional sentences)</i>	205

The layout in the book is in two colours and is easy to follow. Each grammatical item is dealt with according to a set pattern. To begin with, the grammatical item to be discussed is presented in context:

### May (permission)

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<i>CUSTOMER:</i>	<i>I'd like to join the library.</i>
<i>LIBRARIAN:</i>	<i>Could you fill this form in, please?</i>
<i>CUSTOMER:</i>	<i>All right. How many books <b>may</b> I take out?</i>
<i>LIBRARIAN:</i>	<i>You can have up to five books for two weeks. You <b>may</b> keep them longer but you must renew them first.</i>
<i>CUSTOMER:</i>	<i><b>May</b> I take five books with me today, straight away?</i>
<i>LIBRARIAN:</i>	<i>Yes, of course.</i>

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Next the form of the item is given without context:

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<i>form</i>	
<i>POSITIVE</i>	<i>NEGATIVE</i>
<i>may + infinitive</i>	<i>may not + infinitive</i>

*QUESTION*  
*may (I, etc) + infinitive*

*but*  
*may you ... ?*

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This is followed by an explanation of the use of the item. The explanations and additional information are given in simple English. Numerous useful examples are included to support the explanations and, where necessary, illustrations and diagrams are also used to clarify some of the explanations.

There are numerous cross-references throughout so that more information about each point can easily be found. For example: 'We can also use *might* (10.17) instead of *may*'.

In section 10.17, the use of the modal verb *might* has been explained in detail.

At the end of each section there is a 'Bird's eye box' which briefly summarizes the uses of the item discussed. For example:

***Bird's eye box : may***

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<i>May I come an hour later</i>	---- <i>permission</i>
<i>She may have the money. I don't know</i>	---- <i>possibility</i>

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To prevent the learner becoming overwhelmed by an abundance of rules and exceptions, only the essential facts are given. This book is thus suitable for use in a classroom situation where the teacher can discuss the rules given in the book and give additional information where necessary.

On the whole, I think this is a very useful book for both teacher and learner as it not only describes the basic forms and structures of English, but also emphasizes the context and situations in which these structures are used.

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