CONTENTS

1 An Introduction to Grammar for English Language Learners (ELLs) 1
   SECTION 1 What Do You Already Know about ELL Grammar? (Pre-Tests) 2
   SECTION 2 Approaches to Teaching ELL Grammar: The Role of Student, Setting, Course, and Teaching Situation 16

2 Basic English Grammar: Usage and Terminology 31
   SECTION 1 Common Grammar Errors Made by Native Speakers 33
   SECTION 2 Eight Parts of Speech 40
   SECTION 3 Basic Grammar Labels for Sentence Structure 64
   SECTION 4 Why the Twelve English Verb Tenses Matter 74

3 15 Keys to ELL Grammar 89
   Key 1  to be 90
   Key 2  Verb Tenses to Express Present Time 100
   Key 3  Verb Tenses to Express Past Time 114
   Key 4  Verb Tenses to Express Future Time 138
   Key 5  Count and Non-Count Nouns 152
   Key 6  Prepositions 161
   Key 7  Articles 179
   Key 8  Pronunciation of –s and –ed 185
   Key 9  Adjective Clauses and Reductions 193
   Key 10  Infinitives and Gerunds 201
   Key 11  Phrasal Verbs 210
   Key 12  Modals 224
   Key 13  Word Forms 232
   Key 14  Passive Voice 242
   Key 15  Conditionals (If Clauses) and Wish 252
4 Being on the Hot Seat: Grammar Questions from ELLs

- Question 1: Adjective Word Order
- Question 2: Inverted Word Order with Negative Expressions
- Question 3: Spelling Words with Double Consonants
- Question 4: used to
- Question 5: Present Unreal Conditional Sentences
- Question 6: had had
- Question 7: Adverbs of Frequency Word Order
- Question 8: will in if Clauses
- Question 9: Contractions
- Question 10: Verb Forms in Past Tense Questions
- Question 11: since versus for
- Question 12: Noun Clauses as Embedded Questions
- Question 13: another, other, and others
- Question 14: good versus well
- Question 15: gonna (Informal and Formal Language)
- Question 16: Present Perfect Tense
- Question 17: Possessive Forms
- Question 18: Comparison of Adjectives
- Question 19: do versus make
- Question 20: Adverbs of Degree Word Order

5 Specific Techniques for Teaching ELL Grammar

1. You don’t need a grammar book to start your lesson.
2. In example sentences, use content that is relevant and meaningful to your students.
3. Find a real task that is suitable for low-proficiency adult ELLs.
4. Use a rapid language drill for practice, assessment, or both.
5. Limit grammar terminology as much as possible.
6. Help students sort out and then consolidate new grammar information.
7. For any grammar point, consider potential first language interference.
8. Simple exercises may not be so simple.
9. Use the board to help ELLs visualize a pattern.
10. Use songs to practice ELL grammar.
11. Choose grammar materials for false beginners carefully.
12. Use pantomime when it matches the grammar point.
13. Multiple choice questions are useful in teaching, not just testing, grammar.
14. In teaching editing, state the number and type of errors that students are to locate. 300
15. Help ELLs manage the daunting chunks of grammar information. 301
16. Help ELLs see all the pieces of a grammar puzzle. 303
17. Break up longer or difficult grammar lessons. 303
18. Gimmicks help all learners. 304
19. Use examples that match the target grammar point. 304
20. Teach mnemonic devices to help ELLs remember grammar. 306
21. Motivate your ELLs with a challenge. 307
22. Reduce teacher workload: Let students write practice quizzes for each other. 308
23. Find grammar points in non-ELL materials. 309
24. Use guided grammar writing activities to help ELLs see the connection between grammar and writing. 309
25. Develop your own system for correcting grammar errors. 311

Appendixes
1. Common Grammar Errors Made by Native Speakers 313
2. Irregular Past and Past Participles of Verbs 336
3. Glossary of Grammar Terms 341

References 349
Index 350