

Grammar =

simple

purposeful

hands-on

fun

easy to teach

discovery-based

practical

relevant

linked to the Australian Curriculum



Sound impossible?

Find out how.

Thank you, Greg, for a dynamic and inspiring workshop. Shoebox Grammar simplified the process of teaching grammar for our staff. Your expertise was unsurpassed and we thoroughly enjoyed the novel hands-on approach. We look forward to you returning to work with our students as part of our Literacy plan in 2013.

Noriei Crosby, Deputy Principal, Millen PS

The Australian Curriculum asks you to **teach** it

5.2.6 Attention should be given to the **teaching** of **grammar** across **all** the years of schooling to help students meet the **demands of schooling** and their lives outside school. These demands include reading, understanding, speaking, **writing**, and creating texts that describe, narrate, analyse, explain, recount, argue, review, and so on.

Shape of the Australian Curriculum: English, p.7

But how well do you **know** it?

Inquiries into Australian teacher education and literacy have highlighted concerns about the preparedness of teachers to teach literacy effectively. In the international literature, '**knowledge about language**' has been identified as an **important** factor in **successful literacy teaching**.

Helen Harper & Jennifer Rennie

Charles Darwin University & Monash University, 2008

To **successfully** implement the functionally oriented model of grammar proposed by the Curriculum, many teachers will need to **expand their expertise in grammar**.

Pauline Jones & Honglin Chen

University of Wollongong, 2012

And **how** do you teach it?

If we are **teaching** grammar, but the students are **not learning** grammar from us, then there is something **wrong** with the **way** we are teaching it.

Mary Ehrenworth

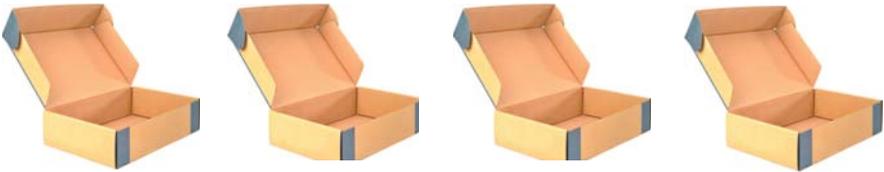
Literacy Staff Developer

New York City Public Schools

Columbia University, 2003

The *Solution* ?

The foundational principles of English grammar are ridiculously simple. You can learn how to teach grammar effectively, powerfully and with nothing more than . . .



. . . lead your students to discover these principles . . .

. . . by themselves . . .

. . . and then show students how to use them in their writing.

Learn in three ways.

External Professional Learning Seminars



These are one-day (six hour) workshops held outside the school. The January dates have been chosen to give teachers new, fresh ideas for teaching grammar and creative writing just as they are writing their forward planning documents.

First, throw away the grammar worksheets. Then, learn the simple foundational principles of our baffling but beautiful language (including nouns, verbs, punctuation, simple, compound and complex sentences, clauses and conjunctions) with nothing more than four shoeboxes, a torch, some scissors, textas and bits of cardboard and some practical, fun, collaborative, discovery-based methods.

Then transfer all of these (the shoeboxes and the discovery-based methods) to your classroom. Show your students not only how to discover these principles on their own, but more importantly, how to write fantastic stories: mystery, action, epic, suspense, persuasive, descriptive, quirky, interest, narrative, report.

Do you need to learn all the arcane grammatical terms? No. Those terms are provided, but more importantly, you learn their everyday counterparts; instead of ‘non-restrictive relative clause’, the student learns it as ‘Extra Information.’ Grammar is a set of tools students use to produce appropriate, effective fantastic writing. If your students discover how the tools work, they will write better.

Morning session	What you must know (the secrets of English.)
Afternoon session:	How to teach it (making sense of it in the classroom.)
\$250 per person	(includes snacks, lunch, comprehensive practical reference book.)

When? ***see back page for further information.***

In-school Professional Learning Seminars



These are six-hour (or two three-hour) workshops held inside the school, either on student-free days or after school.

First, throw away the grammar worksheets. Then, learn the simple foundational principles of our baffling but beautiful language (including nouns, verbs, punctuation, simple, compound and complex sentences, clauses and conjunctions) with nothing more than four shoeboxes, a torch, some scissors, textas and bits of cardboard and some practical, fun, collaborative, discovery-based methods.

Then transfer all of these (the shoeboxes and the discovery-based methods) to your classroom. Show your students not only how to discover these principles on their own, but more importantly, how to write fantastic stories: mystery, action, epic, suspense, persuasive, descriptive, quirky, interest, narrative, report.

Do you need to learn all the arcane grammatical terms? No. Those terms are provided, but more importantly, you learn their everyday counterparts; instead of ‘non-restrictive relative clause’, the student learns it as ‘Extra Information.’ Grammar is a set of tools students use to produce appropriate, effective fantastic writing. If your students discover how the tools work, they will write better.

Session One:	What you must know (the secrets of English.)
Session Two:	How to teach it (making sense of it in the classroom.)
\$500 per session per school	(includes comprehensive, practical reference book.)

The book 'Shoebox Grammar: the Teachers Book.'



It's strange that teachers are expected to teach the English language, in all its complexities and subtleties, based on no more training than the fact that we learned it from birth. It's like being asked to teach medicine with no more training than the possession of a body.



Shoebox Grammar was written in the hope that teachers would firstly gain a knowledge of how simple our beautiful, exasperating, subtle, stupid but marvellously varied language is, and how it was built, and secondly, how to teach students to use it to powerful effect.



The book starts with the origins of our language, and why this is important in our modern classrooms.

It then builds through a logical sequence of instruction, with teaching tips included throughout. Starting with Words as the basic building blocks, it shows graphically how these form into a radically different but simple way of teaching what Sentences and Clauses really are. Finally, it shows how to use Punctuation and Conjunctions to join the building blocks all together into fantastic Stories.

Shoebox Grammar is written by a teacher (and teacher trainer) for teachers. In a simple, conversational style, it presents diagrams and carefully sequenced steps, and has a strong aversion to technical language for its own sake (although it includes technical terms for your reference.) It provides the necessary foundation for the grammar component of the Australian Curriculum, and is necessary reading for any primary teacher in an English-speaking classroom.

\$50 (ebook versions and Youtube presentations coming soon.)

Greg Byrne

A passionate fan of words and stories since he knew what pencils were for, Greg began as a primary teacher (together with a term as a primary principal) and worked in the State, private and Catholic systems.

Following this, he extended his interest in language into teaching overseas students our baffling but beautiful language in several ESL schools across Perth, writing a text for them called 'English is Stupid . . . but Beautiful', learning (in part) Japanese and Italian, and presenting the 'Renovating Grammar' workshop at the 2012 CSA Perth conference, .

He is now teaching undergraduate B.Ed (Primary) students in Language and Literacy at Edith Cowan University School of Education, teaching ESL to adults two nights a week, working on a research Masters in grammar teaching in the primary classroom, and writing novels in his spare time.

And he would like to share all this knowledge and experience with you.

Workshops

Details

At: *to be announced*
On: *to be announced*
At: *9.00 AM (until 3.00PM)*



Cost inclusions

- *Lunch, morning tea, afternoon tea.*
- *The book “Shoebox Grammar: The Teachers Book”*

**** Registrations essential ****

Register by email to

E: greg@neogene.com.au

Please include

- *your name*
- *school*
- *email and phone details*
- *preferred year level (or year level range)*
- *workshop date*
- *special meal requirements*

Enquiries to

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