

Engaging Grammar in Plain English



Photo remembrance after a successful business presentation.

In the business world, English is one of the most often used communication tools. The higher and middle class understand and surely know well how important this international language is. Often lower class employees or those who are not so fortunate in learning the English language, either withdraw or dare to participate by risking their personality by using their minimum skills of the language. Most often, those who dare to do so, survive, even though the intellectuals may look down upon them or just ignore them.

Those who graduated from a good senior high school (in Indonesia) may get quite good learning on practicing the

English language. Most schools in Indonesia, unfortunately still apply the wrong way of teaching the English language by forcing students to learn by heart the grammatical rules plus badly enough demanding students to translate to understand the English language. Luckily, for the last several years many high schools have improved the teaching of English, so that the latest generation, the Z generation, can now communicate in English the way it should be. The millennials and especially the older generation are not so fortunate, with the consequence that their English is still poor. These generations were haunted by the fear of practicing English as grammar was taught so complicatedly.

I have come to know for the last five years studying English in Plain English, and I also found out there is a system of an engaging comprehensive guide to grammar rules is possible. The system is through understanding and practicing through explanations of why and how to apply them. Here are some easy examples to put into practice.

The tenses. Most bothering for Indonesian. It became complicated when English language teachers taught tenses

by demanding students “just learn it by heart”, while practically there is not any comparison of these grammatical rules in bahasa Indonesia. English verbs are divided into three main tenses, all of which relate to time: present, past, and future. Have a read:

Today I hide the documents in my cabinet.

Yesterday I hid them in my cabinet’s office.

I will hide the documents in my cabinet.

These are all in the simple, past, and future tenses. What about when it should be communicated in progressive, perfect, or progressive perfect tenses? Here we learn that English denotes activities or actions as they should. Sentences or sayings at different times of happenings are clearly stated through the practice of different tenses. Complicated? Well, no, as long as you study it systematically and of course practice it in your discussions, conversation, or by writing it. More grammar rules are easy to follow through studying English in Plain English.

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