

## Preface

The book *From PHRASES to CLAUSES and SENTENCES* is intended for advanced university students studying English language as their major subject. It provides the essential theoretical basis for the study of the English sentence as well as a lot of exercises for practicing the use of the previously learned structures. It was created to help students appreciate the fact that grammar is not just about form. While grammar does indeed involve form, in order to communicate, language users also need to know what the forms mean and when and how to use them appropriately. Helping students learn how to put together phrases to form clauses, how to connect different types of clauses in order to form sentences, to express what they want to say meaningfully and appropriately and interpret correctly not only the basic meaning of what has been said to them but also the force of the utterance, and making them recognize the interdependence of grammar and communication is the main goal of this book.

The exercises in the book are linked to the short theoretical passages and give the learners an opportunity to practice the previously learned material. The workbook covers a range of grammatical structures starting with phrases as basic clause elements followed by different types of clauses, and finally it deals with linking clauses into larger meaningful units - sentences. The students are introduced to sentence and sub-sentence structures and forms associated with semantic notions and certain social functions. The aim of this book is not just to offer the fundamental principles of English syntax and lots of easy practise with sentences but to help learners think carefully about the grammar and why one should use one form rather than another. Therefore, the exercises are varied, thematically coherent, but purposeful. There can be found different types of tasks, such as recognition tasks, short response items as well as production tasks, most of which are contextualised. Some of the tasks and items have been adopted from different sources listed in Bibliography, but most of them have been designed by the author.

The book should be useful not only to university students but also to English teachers and other advanced learners and users of English who want to practise English syntax. This book can be used as a practice book or supplementary material in English grammar classes or a self-study grammar practice book.

Let's hope that *From PHRASES to CLAUSES and SENTENCES* grammar book will help you to improve your English.

*Rita Rafajlovičová*