

*Easy English!*  
By Adrian Wallwork

# *Word Games, Riddles and Logic Tests*



*Tax Your Brain  
and Boost Your English*

 Springer

# **Easy English!**

## **Series Editor**

Adrian Wallwork

English for Academics SAS

Pisa, Italy

Easy English is a series of books intended for students and teachers of English as a foreign language.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/15586>

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# Introduction to the Student

## What Is *Easy English*?

*Easy English* is a series of books to help you learn and revise your English with minimal effort.

There are two main strands of the series. Readers who wish to improve their English by

- reading texts in English that you might well normally read in your own language e.g. word and logic games (this book) personality tests, jokes, word searches.
- doing short exercises to improve specific areas grammar and vocabulary, i.e. the areas that tend to lead to the most mistakes - the aim is just to focus on what you really need rather than overwhelming you with a mass of rules, many of which may have no practical daily value.

## Who Is the Book for?

Anyone, whether a native or non-native speaker of English, who is interested in the English language, word games and logic games.

## Which Is the Best Format to Buy this Book in?

Paper, without any doubt. The exercises involve you writing or underlining directly onto the page. With an e-reader this would be much more difficult. However, an e-book provides a dictionary which will occasionally be useful for you.

## **What Level of English Do I Need In Order to Benefit from this Book?**

The level of vocabulary required to understand this book is the highest of all the books in the series. This means that you may come across words that you may not be familiar with. This is because the vocabulary is authentic English - you are reading the real thing! In any case, the difficulty of some of the vocabulary is compensated for by the shortness of the texts and the simplicity in understanding the point of the exercises.

If your level is intermediate and above, then you should be able to do most of the exercises, though not necessarily all the questions within an exercise.

If you need a dictionary to check the meanings of some words, two good online dictionaries are:

- Word Reference
- The Cambridge Online Learners Dictionary

Alternatively, if you are using an e-reader, you can use the dictionary provided by the e-reader.

## **What Kind of Exercises this Book Contain?**

This book contains various exercises connected with some of the more unusual aspects of the English language. There is also has a series of mathematical/logic and lateral thinking games.

The book contains an incredible variety of exercises on areas of the English language that are not normally found for non-native speakers. Thus in many cases you will be exposed to games that typically a native English speaker would do. I have merely tried to adapt these games into a manageable format, but the actual vocabulary contained has not been changed. This is authentic English!

## **Where Are the Keys to the Exercises?**

The keys to the exercises from one chapter are all grouped together at the end of that chapter. The keys all have a light grey background.

For ease of comprehension, keys often contain the full text of the exercise. The idea is that also you will thus be able to re-read the exercise along with its answer, and this should help you to revise and remember the vocabulary contained in the exercise.

## How Do the Exercises Work?

Below is an explanation how each of exercise type in Chapters 2-12 works. For full details see Chapter 1.

### *Ambiguous Headlines*

You will read a series of headlines from newspapers. These headlines are ambiguous which means they have more than one meaning.

Task: Understand the ambiguity

### *Anagrams*

In this exercise you will see a word or set of words in one column, and another set of words in the other column.

The words in the second column are anagrams of the words in the first column. The words in the second column also act as a (humorous) description, explanation or comment on the the first words.

Example: astronomer - moon starrer

*Moon starrer* uses the same letters as *astronomer*, but also describes the work of an astronomer who is someone who stares (in this case, looks at through a telescope) at the moon.

Task: To find a connection between the first column and the second column.

### *Funny Book Titles*

You will be presented with five books titles and five authors. The authors' names need to be spoken aloud in a rapid manner for you to be able to understand their meaning.

Task: Match the titles with authors.

### *Limericks*

Task. Practise reading them aloud and hear/find the rhythm.



## ***Logic/Mathematical***

Task: Solve the problem.

## ***Riddles***

There are several types of exercises using riddles.

- 1) You will be presented with ten riddles. Each riddle consists of a question and an answer.  
Task: Match the questions with the answers.
- 2) You will be given a riddle with three possible answers.  
Task: Choose the best/right answer. You may not always agree with the answers given in the key.
- 3) You will be presented with a riddle and its answer. However, some words have been removed either from the riddle or from the answer. These words are contained in the box under the riddles.  
Task: Insert the words from the box into the correct spaces.

## ***Tongue Twisters***

Task: Practise reading the tongue twister aloud. Then see if you can memorize and say it quickly without getting your tongue tied!

## ***Word Combinations***

You will be presented with two columns of words.

Task: Combine a word from the first column with a word from the second column. Note that the word in the first column is not necessarily the first word in the combination and there may appear to be more than one possible combination.

# Introduction to the Teacher

## How Can I Use this Book?

The exercises in this book can be used as:

- warm up exercises at the beginning of the lessons
- fillers if you've used up all the content you had planned for a lesson
- simply for fun at any point during the lesson
- a means for improving students knowledge of areas of English typically not taught in course books - these areas include idiomatic expressions, proverbs, word combinations
- a means for introducing your students to areas of English that are part of the culture of the language - riddles, limericks, tongue twisters, palindromes etc

## What Are the Other Books in this Series? Which One Should I Read Next?

Currently there are six books in the series.

Word games, riddles and logic tests - *tax your brain and boost your English*

Test your personality - *have fun and learn useful phrases*

Wordsearches - *widen your vocabulary in English*

Jokes - *have a laugh and improve your English*

Top 50 grammar mistakes in English - *how to avoid them*

Top 50 vocabulary mistakes in English - *how to avoid them*

## **What Other Similar Books Might I Find Useful?**

If you teach children and young teenagers, they you might be interested in my book of word games called *Mindtwisters* (published by Scholastic).

Various games and discussion exercises (including various quizzes/personality tests) for older teenagers and adults can be found in *Discussions AZ* (two volumes: intermediate and advanced, published by Cambridge University Press).

There is also a series of discussion, warm up exercises, fillers etc published by SEFL (sefl.co.uk).

## **Ideas for Other Books for this Series**

If you have any ideas for other books that could be part of the *Easy English* series then please email me.

## **The Author**

Since 1984 Adrian Wallwork has been teaching English as a foreign language - from General English to Business English to Scientific English. Although he lives and works in Pisa (Italy), through his university work he has taught students of all nationalities. Adrian is the author of over 30 textbooks for Springer Science+Business Media, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, the BBC, and many other publishers. He can be contacted at: [adrian.wallwork@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.wallwork@gmail.com)

# Acknowledgements and Sources

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Particular thanks to Robert Parks at Wordsmyth and Prabhav Jain at EasyDefine, who gave me permission to use the definitions that are automatically generated by their websites.

EasyDefine definitions are taken from

<https://wordnet.princeton.edu/wordnet/citing-wordnet/>

Some of the anagrams were created at:

[Quickworksheets.net](http://Quickworksheets.net)

Some of the riddles were taken from:

<https://savagelegend.com/misc-resources/classic-riddles-1-100/>

Most of the funny book titles were taken from:

<http://allowe.com/laughs/book/Funny%20Book%20Titles.htm>

Some palindromes and anagrams were taken from:

[http://www.fun-with-words.com/palin\\_word\\_palindromes.html](http://www.fun-with-words.com/palin_word_palindromes.html)

<http://www.anagrammy.com/anagrams/faq2.html>

I also consulted the following books:

*Good Word Guide: The fast way to correct English - spelling, punctuation, grammar and usage*, Martin Manser, A&C Black; 2007

*More Puzzles and Curious Problems*, Henry Ernest Dudeney, Fontana, 1970

*Palindromes and Anagrams*, Howard W. Bergerson, Pan American, 1973

*Puzzles & Brainteasers* Gyles Brandreth, Hennerwood Publications, 1982

*Radio Times Puzzle Book* Clive Doig, Penguin, 1984

*Radio Times Brainbox Puzzle Book Vol. 3*, Clive Doig, BBC, 1993

*Solve it!* James F Fixx, Frederick Muller, 1978

*The Pan Pocket Puzzler*, Michael Holt, Pan, 1985

*The World's Most Challenging Puzzles*, Charles Barry Townsend, Sterling Publishing, 1988

*What's the Name of this Book?* Raymond Smullyan, Pelican, 1981

Finally, thanks to Edward de Bono whose books have inspired three generations of lateral thinkers.

The chapter titles come from the following authors and we would like to acknowledge their contribution for their wonderful chapters.

- 2) We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing! (Benjamin Franklin)
- 3) The scientist should treasure the riddles he can't solve. (Roberto Unger)
- 4) Play up! play up! And play the game. (Sir Henry Newbolt)
- 5) Thanks to words, we have been able to rise above the brute. (Aldous Huxley)
- 6) Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind. (Rudyard Kipling)
- 7) Words are illusions. (Bodidharma)
- 8) Language exists as songs, riddles, or epics that are chanted. (F. Sionil Jose)
- 9) Life is more fun if you play games. (Roald Dahl)
- 10) Words outlive people, institutions, civilizations. (Inga Muscio)
- 11) Have fun and play as many word games as possible. ( Sophie Winkleman)

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