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English 270: Textbook section / Paper #2: Filling in other sections

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Textbook section / Paper #2: Filling in other sections

Our second paper assignment will follow the first in attempting to fill in missing portions of the textbook, “Collaborative Textbook on English Syntax” at <https://yorksyntax.commons.gc.cuny.edu>. This time, we’ll be concentrating on Chapter 7 and a still-missing section of Chapter 2. Again, your task is to research and write a missing section of the textbook, about 800-1200 words. You’ll send me a proposal, then a draft of a particular section on a particular topic of your choosing, I’ll give you comments, and you’ll revise it and submit a final draft, just like a regular paper. Then, I’ll select portions of these to add to the textbook on the Commons site, so that students in the future can use them.

Guidelines:

There are three missing sections you can choose for this assignment, and you should choose one:

- 1) **Chapter 7, Section “Adjective Phrases”**
- 2) **Chapter 7, Section “Adverb Phrases”**
- 3) **Chapter 2, Section “Lexical Semantics” (no-one chose this for the first paper!)**

This time, I’m providing you with some suggested references, which are mostly reference books and textbooks (so, you’ll find the book and then do some searching around for the information you need). You will need 4-6 references overall, and at least two of those should be references you find on your own. Note that these references are to help you find the source in the York College Library, where all of these books are available online (with CUNY login)

For Chapter 7 sections (all available online through the York College Library—tutorial in 10/7 class):

- Aarts et al. 2014, The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar
- van Gelderen, 2010, An Introduction to the Grammar of English
- Denham & Lobeck 2013, Navigating English Grammar – A Guide to Analyzing Real Language

For the Chapter 2 section on Lexical Semantics:

- Lipka 2010, An Outline of English Lexicology: Lexical Structure, Word Semantics, and Word-Formation

For Chapter 7 or Chapter 2 sections:

- Brinton & Brinton, The Linguistic Structure of Modern English
- The Internet Grammar of English <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/>
- Aarts & McMahon, The Handbook of English Linguistics

What the section should look like: There should be a brief introduction introducing the topic of your section, and you should divide your topic into subsections. The information should be geared toward students like you. The key here is to do your research, and source your



information. Think about how textbooks are written, and why they are written that way—try to make sure you give a solid overview of a topic, without getting lost in the details. You’ll need 4-6 sources, so get on that sooner rather than later—finding good quality sources to draw on is going to be a large portion of the work here.

A note on plagiarism: Textbooks use other people’s ideas, but not their direct words (unless they’re directly quoting, and this is *very rare*) This will be an exercise in paraphrasing other sources (i.e., putting that source’s idea in your own words—not just changing a few words), and even better, reading and building your own understanding of a topic and summarizing the knowledge you’ve gained from multiple sources (rather than summarizing a particular source). Do not plagiarize on this assignment—see the syllabus for details and links about plagiarism, and please feel free to ask me if something would be plagiarism.

What about Wikipedia? Wikipedia’s a great place to build a general understanding of a topic, and I would even suggest you start learning about your topic there (with, e.g., the page on “Phonology of English”). It’s going to be way too much detail, though, and you should not use sentences or phrases that come directly from the Wikipedia article (or any other source! That’s plagiarism!). One of the best things about Wikipedia, though, is that it will point you to other sources, and that’s definitely one way to find new sources. Don’t forget about library resources as well.

What about other textbooks? That’s a great way to get an idea of the sorts of things you should cover. But again, there’s a line between inspiration and copying—your sections and text should come from your own understanding of the topic, rather than from some other textbook.

Details on what’s due and when:

- A) Proposal and outline, due Wednesday, 10/21, 11:59 PM on Blackboard:** The proposal should be about a page in length and indicate:
- 1) which of the four topics you intend to cover.
 - 2) a proposed outline for your section. You might have a brief introduction and then break the section down in to 3-4 relevant subsections. You will not necessarily need a conclusion. All you really need to put here is the titles of each subsection, but you can include some notes too if you’d like.
 - 3) the sources you will be drawing upon to write your section (there should be 4-6 of these, and they should be high-quality, reliable, ideally academic, sources) List these in MLA format, like they would be on a Works Cited page.
- B) Draft, due Wednesday, 11/4, 11:59 PM on Blackboard:** This should be a full draft of your section, with sources cited in-text and at the end in MLA format.
- C) Final, due Wednesday, 11/18, 11:59 PM on Blackboard:** This is the final draft of your section, and will be graded and considered (in part or in whole) for inclusion in the textbook. *On the final draft, please indicate whether you would like to be credited by your name, an alias or ‘nom de plume’, or whether you would like your contributions to remain anonymous, if your work ends up in the textbook for future semesters.*



Format: Submit your work as a .doc or .docx file if possible; 12 pt. Times font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins.



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