

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATIVE GRAMMAR TO LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Grammar is often seen as a set of strict rules and endless corrections. But communicative grammar tells a different story one where grammar becomes a tool for connection, not correction. Instead of memorizing structures in isolation, learners engage with grammar as part of real conversations, meaningful tasks, and authentic interactions. This approach brings grammar to life, making it part of how we ask questions, share ideas, express emotions, and solve problems in a new language. Communicative grammar doesn't just teach how to build sentences it teaches how to build relationships through language. This paper explores how this dynamic method empowers learners to become confident, fluent, and socially aware speakers in any target language.

Keywords: *communicative grammar, language learning, interaction-based grammar, real-world communication, fluency development, context-driven learning, meaningful conversation, learner engagement*

INTRODUCTION

Learning a new language is more than memorizing vocabulary and mastering sentence structures it's about stepping into a new world of communication. Yet, too often, grammar is treated as a hurdle rather than a bridge. Traditional grammar teaching focuses on rules, drills, and right or wrong answers. Learners end up knowing *about* the language, but not how to *use* it in real-life situations.

Communicative grammar shifts the focus from isolated grammar exercises to using grammar as a living part of everyday interaction. Instead of asking “Is this sentence correct?”, we begin to ask, “Does this sentence help me express what I mean to another person?” This approach sees grammar not as the center of language learning, but as a powerful support for meaningful conversation.

In today’s interconnected and fast-paced world, language learners need more than accuracy they need fluency, flexibility, and confidence.

Communicative grammar provides the foundation for all three by placing grammar inside the context of speaking, listening, and genuine human connection. This paper explores how communicative grammar helps learners speak more naturally, listen more attentively, and engage more fully with the language they are learning.

MAIN BODY

One of the key benefits of communicative grammar is that it transforms grammar from theory into practice. Instead of asking students to fill in blanks or recite rules, teachers can design activities that require learners to use grammar to solve problems or express ideas. For instance, instead of teaching the present perfect with a list of rules, a teacher might ask students to interview each other about life experiences “Have you ever climbed a mountain?” This allows grammar to emerge naturally from conversation.

Another strength of this approach is that it builds confidence. Many language learners fear making grammatical mistakes, which often leads to silence.

In a communicative classroom, making mistakes is not only accepted it’s seen as a step toward fluency. For example, learners might play a role-playing game where one is a lost tourist and the other is giving directions. The focus is on getting the message across, not perfect grammar. Over time, this reduces anxiety and increases speaking fluency.

Communicative grammar also supports critical thinking. Instead of memorizing structures, students explore how different tenses or sentence types change meaning in context. For instance, they might compare “I’m going to leave” vs. “I will leave” in

various situations a job interview, a casual chat, or a breakup scene. This pushes learners to consider tone, formality, and intent, making grammar more dynamic and personal.

In addition, communicative grammar encourages real collaboration. Group tasks like story-building, peer interviews, or creating dialogues not only reinforce grammar but also promote teamwork. For example, a class might be asked to plan a community event using modals of obligation and suggestion:

“We should hire a DJ,” “We must clean up afterward,” etc. This type of grammar use is functional and directly tied to real communication.

Lastly, communicative grammar supports long-term retention. When grammar is tied to emotions, interactions, or experiences, it sticks. Think of a student who once gave a funny presentation about “the worst day of my life” using past tenses they are far more likely to remember those forms than if they had only filled in worksheets.

Creative and Practical Examples of Communicative Grammar Activities

Activity Name	Grammar Focus	Creative Practical Description
Memory Map Interview	Present Perfect	Students draw a “life map” with 5 memorable experiences and ask each other: “Have you ever...?” E.g., “Have you ever seen snow?”
Lost & Found Role Play	Prepositions Imperatives	One student pretends to be lost in a city; the other gives directions using prepositions and commands: “Turn left, go past the café...”
Time Capsule Letters	Future Tenses	Learners write letters to their future selves: “In 10 years, I will live in Japan and work as a designer.” Then share and discuss.

Activity Name	Grammar Focus	Creative Practical Description
Emoji Emotions Game	Modal Verbs	Each student gets an emoji card and creates a sentence expressing advice or obligation: “You should relax.” (😌) “You must calm down!” (😡)
Speed Dating Chat	Question Forms	Classmates rotate pairs every 2 minutes, asking creative questions: “What would you do if you won a million dollars?”
Detective Grammar	Past Simple & Past Continuous	Students analyze a fake crime scene story using both tenses: “She was reading when the light went out.”
Grammar TikTok Challenge	Reported Speech	Students record a short “news video” reporting gossip or quotes: “She said she loved pizza but hated pineapple.”
Story Chain	Conditionals	One student starts a story: “If I had wings, I’d fly to Paris.” Next continues: “If I flew to Paris, I’d...”
Advice Column Writing	Modal Verbs (Should, Must, Might)	Students act as “language doctors” answering anonymous grammar problems in a fun advice column format.
Guess the Rule	Mixed Tenses / Grammar Discovery	Instead of teaching a rule, the teacher gives 5 example sentences and students collaborate to guess the grammar rule. Interactive discovery!

CONCLUSION

Grammar is not just about rules it's about relationships. It helps us connect thoughts, express feelings, and build bridges between people. But for grammar to serve its true purpose, it must be lived, not just learned.

Communicative grammar allows learners to experience grammar in action in questions asked, stories told, jokes shared, and ideas exchanged. It moves grammar out of textbooks and into conversations. This makes learning more engaging, more memorable, and far more meaningful.

When students laugh during a role play, debate in a group task, or confidently share a story using correct structures, we know something deeper is happening they're not just learning grammar; they're becoming users of the language.

In the journey of language learning, communicative grammar is not the destination, but the vehicle that keeps the learner moving, speaking, and growing. And that's what real learning should feel like: alive, useful, and human.

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