

Targeting the Verb Phrase – AN11002BA/AN18004BA

offered for 1st-year students in the English Studies BA program
3-credit seminar

Spring 2026

Course Description

This course is aimed at improving your knowledge of English grammar. The topics we cover throughout the semester include tense, aspect, modal auxiliaries, finite, non-finite clauses, passive and adverbial clauses. We will discuss some chapters from Rodney Huddleston's and Geoffrey K. Pullum's book titled *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*, which takes a descriptive approach to grammar, and follow it up with various exercises and lots of discussion. I will also ask you to read an article from reputable newspapers such as the New York Times and the Guardian for most classes. These articles will serve as the basis for eight vocabulary quizzes starting in week 2.

Textbooks

Huddleston, Rodney and Geoffrey K. Pullum. 2005. *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (SIEG)

Hewings, Martin. 2022. *Advanced Grammar in Use*. 4th edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press and Assessment. (AGU)

Practice

Handouts for most classes will be uploaded to the e-learning course platform. You will be informed of the availability of new class material via email.

Grading

The final grade will be based on a midterm test, an endterm test and eight vocabulary quizzes.

Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

Weekly Syllabus

	Class content	Homework
Week 1	Introduction: standard vs. non-standard varieties of English, descriptive and prescriptive approaches to grammar	SIEG: pp. 1-9
Week 2	Verbs: Verb inflection, tense and aspect in English Vocabulary quiz #1	SIEG: pp. 29-37, 44-48 AGU: Units 1-2

Week 3	Verbs: The perfect and the distinction between the perfective and imperfective aspects Vocabulary quiz #2	SIEG: pp. 42-44, 48-53 AGU: Units 3-7
Week 4	Modal auxiliaries: The contrast between epistemic and deontic interpretations Vocabulary quiz #3	SIEG: pp. 53-56 AGU: Units 15-20
Week 5	Different ways of expressing futurity in English Vocabulary quiz #4	SIEG: pp. 56-58 AGU: Units 9-14
Week 6	Mock test 1	
Week 7	Midterm test	
Week 8	Spring break	
Week 9	Non-finite clauses Vocabulary quiz #5	SIEG: pp. 204-214 AGU: Units 28-31
Week 10	Information packaging in the clause: passive clauses Vocabulary quiz #6	SIEG: pp. 238-247 AGU: Units 22-25
Week 11	Adverbial clauses 1 Vocabulary quiz #7	AGU: Units 79-82

Week 12	Adverbial clauses 2 Vocabulary quiz #8	AGU: Units 83-86
Week 13	Mock test 2	
Week 14	Endterm test	

Place and Time

Room XIV, Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Room 106, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

Contact

Éva Kardos

[Department of English Linguistics](#), ([DEL Facebook](#), [DEL Instagram](#))

Email: kardoseva@unideb.hu

Phone: 512-900/ext. 22148

Office: Room 12

Office hours: Wednesday 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.