

Pattern Grammar: how to tackle it systematically in the classroom.

ABSTRACT: Do your learners have problems with prepositional phrases following verbs, nouns and adjectives? Would you like to explore a systematic approach to helping them with these problems? Are you willing to contribute to a workshop which involves some guided language analysis? If you answer 'yes' to all three questions you will find this workshop useful. (55)

SUMMARY: If they are to use English fluently learners need a vast store of lexical phrases. Some of these phrases are unpredictable – they need to be learned individually as lexical items. But pattern grammar shows how learners can predict for themselves many phrases based on the most frequent words in the language. I will begin by looking at patterns with verbs and nouns followed by the preposition *about*. I will show how these patterns relate very closely to the two basic meanings of *about*. We will then go on to explore the notion of pattern grammar by looking at patterns based on the word *for*. Again the verbs, nouns and adjectives relate to the basic meanings of *for*, but in a less obvious way. We will look at the systematic relationship between the preposition *for* and the words which precede it. Participants will then be invited to explore for themselves patterns based on a number of frequent words like *as* and *with*. Finally we will look at more extended patterns and discuss techniques which will enable learners to discover these patterns for themselves. (182)