

GRAMMAR TRAIN

Online Professional Learning in Grammar for
Australian Teachers

grammartrain.com.au | info@englishforwork.com.au | 0409 395 648



About Grammar Train

Grammar Train provides accredited and elective online professional learning in English grammar for teachers. Our course allows teachers to learn at their own pace, in any location, with expert support.

We are a team of grammar and education specialists, passionate about grammar, language and literacy. We are committed to supporting teachers and schools to embrace grammar and improve students' literacy.

AS FEATURED

The Canberra Times



PROUD SPONSORS OF



AATE/ALEA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Margaret McBride

BA, GDipTESOL, MEd(TESOL)
Director, Grammar Train

- has over 6 years running grammar PD for teachers.
- has over 30 years' experience teaching English.
- is a language consultant for government and organisations.
- is a former lecturer and unit convenor for English grammar university courses.
- is completing a PhD exploring grammar and the Australian Curriculum.
- is a thought leader in the media on grammar, including ABC Radio Canberra.



Dr Navid Sabet

BA(Hons), PhD *Monash*
Director, Grammar Train

- teaches English grammar at Australian universities.
- presents and publishes research on education issues.
- has web and instructional design expertise across the education, university and non-profit sectors.



Dr Melinda Herron

BA, MA, PhD *Melb*
Head of Communications

- convenes and teaches English grammar, linguistics, discourse studies and intercultural communication to primary, secondary and TESOL education students at Australian universities.
- presents and publishes research on language use and interaction in culturally diverse schools.
- has curriculum design and resource development expertise.



OUR STORY

Supporting teachers in a pandemic

We are a Canberra-based organisation which has delivered professional development in grammar to hundreds of teachers since 2015.

In 2020, when COVID-19 restrictions hit, Margaret McBride could no longer deliver face-to-face workshops.

Amid the COVID-19 lockdowns and emerging challenges for schools, teachers continued to approach Margaret for help with grammar.

So Dr Navid Sabet - an instructional designer and fellow educator - joined forces with Margaret to convert the course to online learning!

Our new learning platform **GrammarTrain.com.au** can support teachers anytime, anywhere, at their own pace - with expert support.

Dr Melinda Herron - a linguistics lecturer and teacher trainer - then joined our team to design free classroom resources and provide further support to teachers.

Our story in the news

<https://canberraweekly.com.au/mother-and-son-helping-teachers-win-the-grammar-wars/>



Sunrise - Watch & Stream Sunrise with Natalie Barr and David Koch Online

Watch, Stream & Catch Up with your favourite Sunrise episodes on 7plus. Wake up to a better breakfast with Natalie Barr and David Koch for all...

<https://7plus.com.au/sunrise>
16 August 2021



Mother and son helping teachers win the grammar wars

After 27 years of teaching English and grammar at CIT and UC, along with PhD research on grammar teaching, Margaret McBride decided to help teachers

GRAMMAR: A HOT TOPIC



Grammar teaching skipped two generations. Now it's back with purpose

Put your knowledge of grammar to the test.

 The Canberra Times / Sarah Lansdown / Apr 11

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6990167/grammar-teaching-skipped-two-generations-now-its-back-with-purpose/>

TALKING ALL THINGS GRAMMAR ON ABC RADIO CANBERRA

Margaret has been a regular guest on ABC Radio's 'Sunday Brunch' with host Kim Huynh.

She talks with Kim about grammar and answers the questions ('grammar grumbles') of listeners who call and text in.

Eg. <https://www.abc.net.au/.../sundayb.../sunday-brunch/13317340>



CANBERRA TIMES ARTICLE & GRAMMAR QUIZ

Grammar in Australian schools has been and continues to be a hot topic in the media.

Our director, Margaret McBride, was interviewed by The Canberra Times about grammar and the Australian Curriculum.

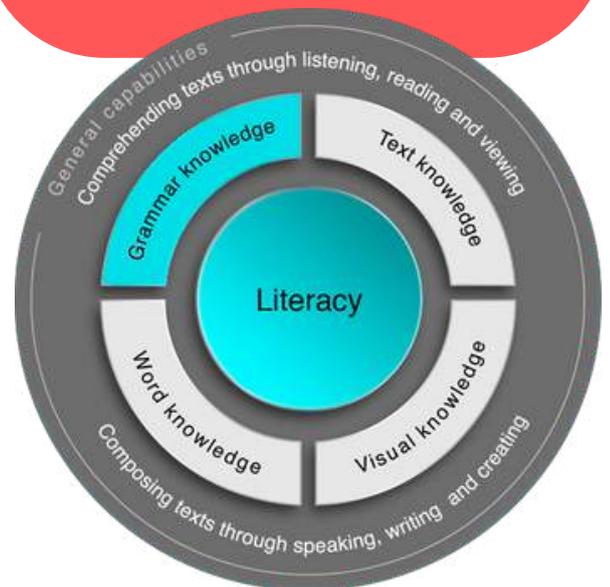
We developed a **Grammar Quiz** for the Canberra Times which was a great success.

WHY GRAMMAR?

Grammar is a useful and powerful tool for communicating with each other and expressing ourselves.

- Grammar is an essential part of the Australian Curriculum and is critical to students' literacy development. (ACARA n.d; DET 2018).
- Many teachers have come from educational backgrounds where grammar was not taught. (The Review of the Australian Curriculum Final Report 2014)
- Extensive international research indicates that teachers lack sufficient grammatical knowledge. (Myhill 2005; Clark 2010; Jeurissen 2010; Dean 2016)
- In Australia, teachers' grammatical knowledge has been identified as a critical issue. (Harper & Rennie 2009; Jones & Chen 2012; MacFarlane 2015; MacKenzie 2016)

Grammar is a core part of literacy (ACARA).



- The Australian (16 Aug 2021) 'Decline in English standards began when schools stopped teaching grammar'
- The Australian (26 July 2021) 'Whatever happened to teaching grammar ... even our teachers struggle with it'
- The Guardian (9 Feb 2021) 'Parents, don't worry if your child knows more about grammar than you do'
- The Guardian (27 Jan 2021) 'Teach grammar to nurture creativity, not crush it'
- Sydney Morning Herald (19 Sept 2020) 'Writing wrongs: Our society is about to hit a literacy crisis'
- Sydney Morning Herald (16 Sept 2020) 'Half of NSW teachers say they were poorly trained to teach writing'

...and more



@GrammarTrain

FACT SHEET

OUR ONLINE GRAMMAR PD

OUR COURSE HELPS TEACHERS TO:

- understand the fundamentals of English grammar as outlined in the Australian Curriculum.
- develop confidence in using grammatical terminology.
- analyse the grammar of texts, identify errors and apply this knowledge to their teaching.
- use grammar to improve students' literacy skills.
- understand the needs of students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.



OUR COURSE SUPPORTS SCHOOLS TO:

- achieve their literacy goals.
- provide teachers with vital knowledge their teacher training/schooling did not provide.
- produce consistent, accurate, clear student reports and other communications.
- champion confident, knowledgeable and effective literacy-focused teaching teams.
- improve NAPLAN results.
- enhance teachers' knowledge about language so it is translated into effective pedagogy.

Grammar doesn't have to be daunting...or boring!

We support teachers! We aim to provide a caring and encouraging professional learning environment where teachers can refresh/enhance their knowledge and confidence.

**DURING LOCKDOWN,
WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT
AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS.**



**CHECK OUT OUR FREE GRAMMAR
TEACHING RESOURCES
&
CONTACT US DIRECTLY WITH ANY
GRAMMAR QUESTIONS.**

We'd love to help!

Individual teacher
enrolments

+

School licences

+

Free resources

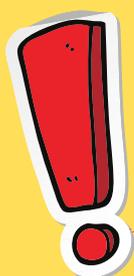
+

Ongoing support with
grammar



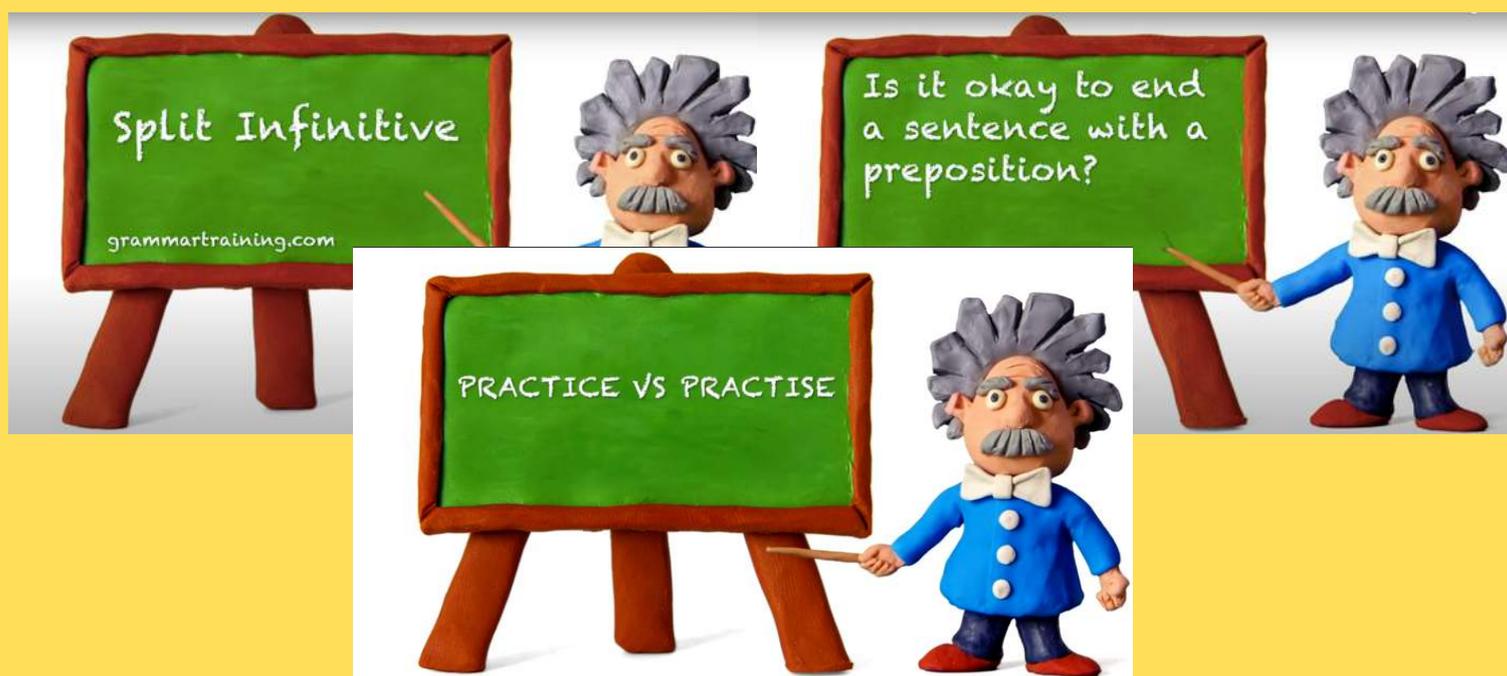
THE GREAT GRAMMAR DEBATE!

According to an article in the LA Times, marriage counsellors sometimes need to resolve couples' grammar disputes!



Facebook, Twitter and school staffrooms are also regularly filled with heated debates about grammar!

At Grammar Train, we are here to settle these debates! Our animated series 'Grammar Grabs' tackles them head on.



Watch Professor Moses Illusion end staffroom debates about Practice vs Practise before report time!

PROUDLY SPONSORING:

CHALLENGE & CHANGE

CONTEMPORARY LITERACY & ENGLISH TEACHING

AATE/ALEA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
BRISBANE 7-9 JULY 2021



AATE Australian Association for the
Teaching of English



**AUSTRALIAN LITERACY
EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION**



ACTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

REGISTER NOW

For more information about our professional development course, grammar, or grammar teaching approaches, please get in touch.

Margaret McBride | info@englishforwork.com | 0409 395 648



@GrammarTrain