

Homework Assignment #1 | Mental grammar

Due **M Aug 17 at 12:00 noon** (EDT) in Sakai "[Assignments](#)" | upload as .doc(x) or .pdf file ***only*** *CL* is your textbook, *Contemporary Linguistics*

NOTE: If you do not yet have your textbook, a PDF copy of Ch 1 is on reserve for our course. (See "[Course Reserves](#)" on our Sakai site for more information.)

Components of grammar and differences among languages

Consider a language other than English that you speak or have studied. Choose **two** of the following four components of grammar (see also Table 1.3 on p 6 of *CL*) and show, for each component you choose, **at least one difference** between that language and English. Illustrate each difference that you discuss with *actual language data*—words, phrases, or sentences—that demonstrate how the two languages differ.

- **Phonetics/phonology:** Are there sounds or sound combinations in one language that do not occur in the other? (Be careful to think about the actual *pronunciation* of the languages, rather than spelling rules.)
- **Morphology:** Are there differences in the two languages' ways of building words?
- **Syntax:** Are there differences in the two languages' ways of building phrases or sentences?
- **Semantics:** Are there meaning differences in the two languages? For example, are there words in one language with no direct (one-word) translation into the other?