2ND EDITION Completely rewritten & expanded

Hello ENGLISH

VOLUME 1 · Grammar Made Clear

Unlocking the mysteries of English — the Ethiopian way!



- All **12 tenses** & the **passive voice**, made simple
- **Ethiopian examples** on every page
- **Common mistakes** Ethiopian speakers make
- **40 units**, exercises & full answer key

Ermias Wedaje Tegbaru

Hello English

Volume 1 · Grammar Made Clear

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VOLUME 1

Grammar Made Clear

The tenses, the passive voice and every rule you need — explained with Ethiopian examples

SECOND EDITION

Ermias W. Tegbaru (Eng.)

Addis Ababa

Hello English — Volume 1: Grammar Made Clear
Second Edition

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First edition published as *Hello English*, Addis Ababa, 2015.
Second edition, completely rewritten and revised, 2026.

ISBN: to be assigned

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This edition uses American English spelling. British differences are noted where they matter.

This book is dedicated to my children, Abem and Yam,
who are just about the best children a father could hope for:
happy, loving, and fun to be with.

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Preface

> *"If a book come from the heart, it will contrive to reach other hearts; all art and authorcraft are of small amount to that."*
>
> — Thomas Carlyle

In 2015 I published the first edition of *Hello English*. It was printed in a single run of one thousand copies, and it was warmly received by students, teachers and professionals in education circles across Ethiopia. Many readers asked for a second printing.

This second edition is not a reprint. Every unit has been rewritten, corrected and checked against one question: will this help an Ethiopian learner use English correctly and confidently? The grammar has been rebuilt from the ground up, with the tenses and the passive voice at its heart, Ethiopian names and places on every page, and a full chapter on the mistakes we make most often.

Volume 1 is about grammar. Volumes 2 and 3 cover everyday English and English for work and the wider world.

A book like this is never finished. Your comments, corrections and classroom experiences are welcome, and they will make the next printing better.

Ermias W. Tegbaru (Eng.)
Addis Ababa, 2026

How to Use This Book

Volume 1 has 40 units in six parts, followed by three reference sections and a complete answer key. You can work through it from the beginning, or go straight to the unit you need.

Every unit works the same way

1. **Rule** — the main idea in one plain sentence, in a shaded box.
2. **Form** — a table showing positive, negative and question forms.
3. **Timeline or picture** — where it helps you see the meaning.
4. **Uses** — numbered, each with Ethiopian examples.
5. **Signal words** — the time words that go with the grammar.
6. **Watch out!** — the most common mistakes, ✗ wrong and ✓ right.
7. **Practice** — exercises that move from recognising, to completing, to correcting, to using the grammar yourself.
8. **Answers** — at the back of the book, in the Answer Key.

Where to start

- **Students preparing for exams:** start with Part B (the tenses), then R3, *Common Mistakes Ethiopian Speakers Make*.
- **Teachers:** each unit is one or two lessons. The Practice sections can be copied for classroom use.
- **Professionals:** Units 24–27 (the passive), 29 (obligation), 37 (conditionals) and 39 (linking words) will improve your reports and emails quickly.

PART A

Words

The building blocks: nouns, pronouns, articles, quantifiers, adjectives and adverbs.

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UNIT 1

Parts of Speech

> **The rule in one sentence:** every word in a sentence has a **job**, and the name of that job is its part of speech.

The nine parts of speech

Part of speech	Job	Examples	Unit
Noun	names a person, place, thing or idea	Hana, Gondar, book, happiness	2–3
Pronoun	replaces a noun	she, it, they, mine, myself	4–5
Determiner	comes before a noun to say which or how many	a, the, this, my, some, many	6–7
Verb	shows an action or a state	run, eat, is, have, seem	10–33
Adjective	describes a noun	tall, beautiful, Ethiopian	8
Adverb	describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb	quickly, very, often, here	9
Preposition	shows place, time or relationship	in, on, at, with, for	40
Conjunction	joins words or clauses	and, but, because, although	39
Interjection	shows a strong feeling	Wow! Oh! Ouch!	—

One sentence, every part

Wow! My young sister sings very beautifully at church, and everyone loves her.

Word	Part of speech
Wow!	interjection
My	determiner
young	adjective
sister	noun
sings	verb
very	adverb
beautifully	adverb
at	preposition

WORDS

Word	Part of speech
church	noun
and	conjunction
everyone	pronoun
loves	verb
her	pronoun

One word, different jobs

The same word can be a different part of speech in a different sentence. Look at its **job**.

- Please **water** the plants. (verb) · I need some **water**. (noun)
- She works **hard**. (adverb) · This is a **hard** question. (adjective)
- I'll call you **after** lunch. (preposition) · I'll call you **after** I finish. (conjunction)

Practice

A. Name the part of speech of each word in bold.

1. The **children** played in the garden.
2. She runs **quickly**.
3. We waited **for** the bus.
4. Abebe is a **kind** man.
5. I like tea, **but** my wife prefers coffee.
6. **They** live in Mekelle.
7. **Oh!** I forgot my keys.
8. The students **study** every evening.

B. Noun or verb?

1. I had a long **talk** with my father.
2. Let's **talk** later.
3. Can you **book** a table for four?
4. This **book** is very interesting.

END OF FREE SAMPLE

Want the full book?

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Ermias Wedaje Tegbaru · Civil engineer and author, Addis Ababa