

ENGLISH GRAMMAR BREAKTHROUGH

Break Through Your English Grammar Blocks –
With The **5-FINGER-MANTRA**

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ENGLISH GRAMMAR BREAKTHROUGH 5-FINGER MANTRA

You don't believe that there is such a thing as a 'grammar breakthrough'? Well, you may be right - but I am going to introduce you to the 5-Finger Mantra. In the first step, this will give you 95% of the grammar you need for successful business communication in 28 seconds. In the second 'Hot Key' step, even in 5 seconds!

I call this grammar breakthrough the '**5-Finger Mantra**' because you can link each of the main tenses to your thumb and four fingers: the name of the tense, the rule and an example. Your fingers act like a boat's anchor, and when you repeat this information many times (like a mantra) you will build up synapses in your brain which help you to become more accurate.

Why are synapses important for grammar? Well, you had English at school and learnt many tenses which you probably didn't understand, didn't use correctly and which caused you many headaches when you had to write a test. We can compare this information to the MS-DOS operating systems of the old computers which was Impossible for anyone to understand who was not a computer expert Then along came Windows and Apple and put an easy-to-use surface on the underlying system.

When you learn something, synapses are laid down in your brain rather like railway tracks. I think you would agree that your 'railway tracks' from school are rather old, rusty and broken down. This gives you the feeling that your English is

BAD! And that you CAN'T SPEAK CORRECTLY! This is just not true! If anything, the problem lies with the teachers, the books and the old-fashioned structures which were just too COMPLICATED!

I made this experience when I came to Germany in 1966. I had learnt French and Latin at school - but no German. I bought a book: 'Deutsch für Ausländer' and spent much time trying to learn all the horrible rules. For example, 'Vollendete Zukunft'. Do you know what this is? I will give you an example:

"Nachdem ich meine Arbeit beendet haben werde, werde ich nach Hause gehen".

I learnt this difficult construction, used it when speaking - and people looked at me as if I was rather strange! "What do you say?", I asked.

"Wenn ich fertig bin, gehe ich nach Hause", was their reply.

It was the same with the conjunctive forms. I learnt pages and pages by memory and tried to use them - *bis ich merkte, wenn ich so spräche, verlöre ich alle Freunde!*

This was my first experience that the language taught in books is not necessarily the language spoken in day-to-day communication. All German tenses are not used when speaking - and certainly the poor foreigner trying to learn this complex language does not want to be disturbed with *Plusquamperfekt, Präteritum und Konjunktiv I und II in der Indirekten Rede!* Not even Germans get this right! In fact, I discovered that you use mainly *Gegenwart* when you speak, as in:

Ich komme gerade nach Hause.

Ich komme jeden Tag um diese Uhrzeit nach Hause.

Morgen komme ich später nach Hause.

“Stelle dir vor, gestern komme ich ins Zimmer und sehe, wie er da sitzt...!!”

So, if a non-German business person wants to learn German in order to do business in Germany, I certainly would not teach him difficult tenses that Germans don't use in their daily communication.

After this discovery, I decided to look at my own language to see if we really need all the tenses which are taught at school – and are still taught today in most books for adults. And what I found was a **BREAKTHROUGH** in getting blocked Germans to 'unblock' and be able to speak easily and correctly:

We use three tenses (20% of theoretical grammar) 80% of the time when we speak:

Present Simple (I learn); Past Simple (I learnt); Future Simple (I will learn)

There are two more relevant tenses for business:

Present Progressive (I am learning) and Present Perfect (I have learnt)

With Present Progressive (10%) and Present Perfect (5%) we are now looking at **95%** of functional grammar. When we link these 5 tenses to our 5 fingers, we have the

5-FINGER MANTRA!!

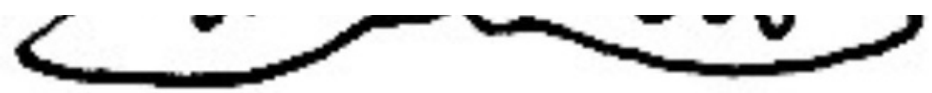
This '5-Finger Mantra' takes 28 seconds to repeat. As you will see in the following sections, each finger has a tense (name, rule and example) linked to it. The finger acts as an anchor. By repeating these tenses and at the same time

physically moving the relevant finger you will restructure the synapses in your brain which have become rusty over the years.

Repeat each finger 10 times per day after you have learnt it. Take a minimum of one week for each finger. Repeat first the thumb 10 times, then the thumb and index finger 10 times, then thumb, index finger and middle finger 10 times and so on until you are repeating all five fingers 10 times per day. Use the exact wording of the rules and the 'learn English' examples which I have given you in the diagrams **otherwise you will not have the 'mantra' effect!**

Later you can link only ONE word to each finger. These are the HOT KEYS and should be repeated 10 times per day for the next 21 days! In this way, the information which you have learned by repeating the fingers will be stored in the basal ganglia. This is the part of the brain which is responsible for habits (*Gewohnheiten*) and automatic reactions. Curious? Then work through the next pages, repeat the fingers and then go to page → for the **HOT KEYS.**





5- Finger Mantra

1) Thumb

