

Swan, Michael. (2005) *Practical English Usage*. Oxford University Press.

Betty's comments:

Have you ever had a student ask a question about grammar that your grammar book didn't answer and you couldn't answer? I bet you'll find the answer in Michael Swan's *Practical English Usage*.

Swan's comprehensive reference text looks at English grammar from the perspective of a second language learner and presents linguistic information in words that students and teachers can easily understand.

I discovered Swan's first edition (it's now in its third edition) sometime in the early 80s, just after I had finished my first text (the blue book). How I wished I had had his book while I was writing that first book! His book dealt with so many questions that I had wrestled with both as a teacher and then as a materials writer. To me, *Practical English Usage* was, and still is, a treasure trove.

To this day, Swan's reference text is never more than an arm's reach away when I am working. I have a number of [other reference texts](#) close by also, but the first one I reach for is either Swan's or a corpus-based dictionary.