Chapter 4: Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GA)

(Suggested Answers)

Part I. What does Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GA) mean?

Activity 1. Grammatical Accuracy

Go to the corpus and use the 'Browse' function. Take a look at the GA performance of Speaker 72 (Band 9.0). Can you find any grammar errors?

Answer:

> 3 errors can be found in verb:
>
> it's more models and actresses that ^*are* sponsor perfume and clothes;
>
> that's what they ^*are* trying to do)
>
> noun (because a lot of *celebrity*).

Activity 2. Which is a better answer?

Question 1: Tell me about the place you are living. (On Grammatical Range)

Answer:

A is better because a subordinate clause (*[SUB-relative clause]* I grew up in) and a coordinate clause is used (*[coordinate clause]* but now there are loads of shops and restaurants).

Question 2: Which relatives did you see most often when you were a child? (On Grammatical Accuracy)

Answer:

B is better because the candidate can use a correct tense (i.e., past tense) when referring to a childhood experience.

Activity 3. Complex structures and Grammatical errors

Go to the corpus and take a look at the performance of any Band 5.0 speaker. Can you list at least one subordinate clause and grammar error?

Suggested answer: Speaker 2 (Band 5.0)

Subordinate clause:

> I think cooking at home, it's a relax, relaxing style.
>   (SUB – noun clause)

Grammar error:

> I especially like playing ~~the~~ badminton.

Part II. What are the features of a high-band performance?

Activity 4. Searching the corpus

Question 1: In <u>Speaker 21</u>, how many subordinate clauses have been identified? How many of them are noun clause, adverbial clause or relative clause?

Answer:

10 subordinate clauses are identified. They are 3 noun clauses, 6 adverbial clauses, and 1 relative clause.

Question 2: In <u>Speaker 31</u>, how many subordinate clauses have been identified? How many of them are noun clause, adverbial clause or relative clause?

Answer:

16 subordinate clauses are identified. They are 5 noun clauses, 10 adverbial clauses, and 1 relative clause.

Activity 5. What are the positive features?

Go to the corpus and use the 'Browse' function. Look at the general comments for any two speakers (one should be from Band 5.0 / 5.5 and another one should be from Band 8.0 / 8.5). What can you identify as positive features of a higher achiever?

Suggested answer:

	Positive Features
<u>Speaker 71</u> (Band 8.5)	The speaker attempts to produce a total of 20 sentences, in which there are 3 simple sentences and 1 compound sentence. There are also some complex constructions, including 11 complex sentences and 5 compound complex sentences, which consist of 17 noun clauses, 8 adverbial clauses, and 10 relative clauses. 3 complex verb groups are used, in which 2 are passive constructions and 1 is an emphatic-'do' construction.
<u>Speaker 11</u> (Band 5.0)	The speaker attempts to produce a total of 9 sentences, in which there are 4 simple sentences. There are also some complex constructions, including 5 complex sentences, which consist of 3 noun clauses and 6 adverbial clauses.

Teaching corner: Determine their levels

Read the scripts from Part 2 below. Which bands do you think these speakers have attained?

Speaker A

One of the mo... one of the mo... the most memories find once when I saw is the movie called Coco, and it will be the published in the tw, twen, twenty, twenty eighty. And because the famous song in this movie is named Remember and I have… I have the chance to see it. And it... it was about a character to… and he… his grandpa, and al, also, also, about some music dreams. So, the first... first thing I think is very… is very touch me is because it's called his grandpa enou, enough time. Also, my grandpa die from a heart breaker and in accident. I don't have the time to see him. So, I see the… I see the, this… this actor in the… this movie, I think it's very tou, touch, and when I see I'm crying. The la, big thing is about their dreams. I also play piano in the really life. So, also I think it's very hard, and also my de, my families don't allow me to…

Speaker B

The most impressive building I saw is… I, I didn't literally saw it, but I saw like, the pictures and the model in a gallery, like, art gallery, in Sanlitun. The designer was called Michael or something, a f, a French guy. And it's a wine place, like, they have all kinds, all different kinds of wine in the building. And you know, the shape of the outside of the building is… They, they got the idea from when, when people pouring wine into a cup, so it's all like smooth streamline shape. And it's not like normal building that have, like, you know, straight, straight sides and edges. And it's kind of out of the box of normal design. And beside that, you know, that exhibition of the architecture have like, all kinds of different buildings, you know. Like, say, they have a small center. It was a idea. And it shows the process of the designing, like, from the start, like, what I saw is just scratching randomly, but I can see from step to step, from the scratch to the actual design. And like, another thing is, you know, how they have this different shape, and that makes a engineering and architecture part really difficult. So like, one of his building is like inverse cone that have like, only four square meters attached the ground, and the top is like 50 square meter or something. I don't know. I'm just guessing, but it was really impressive.

Answer:

Speaker A is a Band 5.0.

The speaker attempts to produce a total of 11 sentences, in which there are 7 simple sentences and 1 compound sentence. There are also some complex constructions, including 3 compound complex sentences, which consist of 2 noun clauses and 2 adverbial clauses.

Speaker B is a Band 6.5.

The speaker attempts to produce a total of 16 sentences, in which there are 10 simple sentences and 2 compound sentences. There are also 4 compound complex sentences, which consist of 2 noun clauses and 2 relative clauses.

Number of sentences: B > A
Number of compound complex sentences: B > A

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