

Heuristic: Discovering Grammar #1 – Language Variety

In “Discovering Grammar” the authors of *Grammar Alive* tell us that
“The varieties of English offer you a powerful entranceway through which you can encourage students to discover the structure of language.” (10)

Look back on the ways you have communicated recently, both in print and verbally. List the different grammars you have used. After you finish your list, choose one and analyze it. You should

- Give an example of that grammar
- Tell why it is appropriate for that situation
- Create some elements of a “style guide” for others in the same situation.

Heuristic: Discovering Grammar #2 – Authentic texts

In “Discovering Grammar” the authors of *Grammar Alive* tell us that
...teachers should teach grammar from authentic texts as much as possible. You
can use the literature the students are reading, as well as newspapers and other
texts, to demonstrate or teach any lesson.” (17)

Remember that, for this purpose, ‘grammar’ means a ‘system of language’ Each different
form of writing may call for a slightly (or widely) different grammar, based on the needs
of the audiences of that writing.

List as many ‘grammars’ from authentic texts as you can think of – different genres of
writing you see on a regular basis. After you finish your list, choose one and analyze it.
You should

- Give an example of that grammar
- Tell why it is appropriate for that situation
- Create some elements of a “style guide” for others in the same situation.