Abstract: The Grammar of the English Tense System forms the first volume of a four-volume set, The Grammar of the English Verb Phrase. The other volumes, to appear over the next few years, will deal with mood and modality, aspect and voice. The book aims to provide a grammar of tense which can be used both as an advanced reference grammar (for example by MA-level or postgraduate students of English or linguistics) and as a scientific study which can act as a basis for and stimulus to further research. It provides not only a wealth of data but also a unique framework for the study of the English tense system, which achieves great predictive and explanatory power on the basis of a limited number of relatively simple rules. The framework provided allows for an analysis of the semantics of individual tenses which reflects the role of tenses not only in locating situations in time relative to speech time but also in relating situations in time relative to one another to form temporally coherent discourse. Attention is paid to the relations between tenses. On the one hand, we can identify sets of tenses linked to particular temporal areas such as the past or the future. These sets of tenses provide for the expression of a system of temporal relations in a stretch of discourse in which all the situations are located within the same temporal area. On the other hand, there are many contexts in which speakers might in theory choose between two or more tenses to locate a situation (e.g., when we choose between the past tense and the present perfect to locate a situation before speech time), and the book examines the difference that a choice of one or the other tense may make within a discourse context. The book moves from a detailed exploration of the meaning and use of individual tenses to a thorough analysis of the way in which tenses can be seen to function together as sets, and finally to a detailed examination of tenses in, and tenses interacting with, temporal adverbials. Original data is used frequently throughout the book to illustrate the theory discussed.
produce all and only the grammatical sentences of English. We’ve also seen that these rules must capture two features of our knowledge about English Subject + Verb + Object + Prepositional Phrase – Simple Sentence. Bernd Kortmann Elizabeth Closs Traugott. Mouton de Gruyter Berlin · New York. The Grammar of the English Verb Phrase Volume 1: The Grammar of the English Tense System A Comprehensive Analysis. by. Renaat Declerck in collaboration with Susan Reed and Bert Cappelle. like verbs and verb phrases, which are often also. said to refer to ‘situations’ in the linguistic litera-. ture. Part V (sections 1.33–1.40) addresses the. properties by which these latter semantic catego-. ries (which we call ‘situation-templates’) can be. classified into different types. Grammar of the English tense system which was at the same time a scientific. study and a work which could be used as a reference grammar by linguists and. students of English with a basic knowledge of descriptive linguistics and a. fairly advanced proficiency in English. Difficult as it is to reconcile these two. purposes with each other, we have attempted to write a grammar that comes, up to this double expectation. What are English grammar phrases? What is a finite verb? What is a non-finite verb? In grammar, a phrase is a group of words without a finite verb. Click Here for Step-by-Step Rules, Stories and Exercises to Practice All English Tenses. But what is a finite verb? Quick Tips: Finite: I sing, she sings, we sang. Not-finite: to sing, singing, sung. When something is finite it means it has a clear limit. A finite verb is a verb that has a particular tense, person and number. Example: In the sentence "She has a dog," the verb has shows a tense (simple present), a person (third person) and a number (singular). So has is a finite verb. "She has a birthday cake."