

# Re: Universal grammar

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In article <1162112325.958675.203450@xx>, "Rob Freeman" <groups@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Back to language. What do you think of Rob Freeman's approach of a grammar based on examples instead of rules? I find it promising. That is the way I proceed in English. I don't consult grammar books, I rely on songlines and sentences I remember.

When I learned language, one focused much on grammar and spelling, but nowadays, one has realized that it is important to practice, practice and practice. The same as always has been known in say music performance.

It is easy to slip into thinking this is a learning issue. That is unfortunate, because with the assumption that we are talking principally about learning, comes the assumption there is something to learn (usually rules.) The "central simplifying generalization" I work with is not so much that we learn language from examples. It is that the examples themselves are what we learn, that the examples themselves are a particularly compact representation for a language (the most.)

The problem