

Chapter 4 Tests of grammar & usage (J. B. Heaton)

4.1 Introduction

Some most common types of objective items used to test awareness of the grammatical features of the language are as follows:

- (a) multiple-choice items**
- (b) error-recognition items**
- (c) rearrangement items**
- (d) completion items**
- (e) transformation items**
- (f) items involving the changing of words**
- (g) 'broken sentence' items**
- (h) pairing and matching items**
- (i) combination items**
- (j) addition items**

These items are used to test the ability to recognize or produce correct forms of language rather than the ability to use language to express meaning, attitude, emotions, etc.

However, students have to master the grammatical system of the language they are learning. In this respect, classroom tests of grammar and usage play a useful part in a language program.

4.2 Multiple-choice grammar items: item types

Type 1. Tom ought not to (A. tell B. having told
C. be telling D. have told) me your secret, but he did.

Type 2. Tom ought not to me your secret, but he did.

- A. tell
- B. having told
- C. be telling
- D. have told

Type 3. Tom ought not to me your secret, but he did.

- A. tell
- B. having told
- C. be telling
- D. have told

Type 4. Tom ought not to *have told* me your secret, but he did.

- A. *No change*
- B. tell
- C. having told
- D. be telling

Type 5.

- A. Tom ought not to tell me your secret, but he did.
- B. Tom ought not to having told me your secret, but he did.
- C. Tom ought not to be telling me your secret, but he did.
- D. Tom ought not to have told me your secret, but he did.

Type 6. Testing short answers and responses

'Tom ought not to tell anyone the secret.'

- A. 'So ought you.' C. 'Neither you oughtn't.'
B. 'Neither ought you.' D. 'So oughtn't you.'

Type 7. 'Tom ought not to have told me.'

- A. Tom did not tell me but he should.
B. Perhaps Tom may not tell me.
C. Tom told me but it was wrong of him.
D. It was necessary for Tom not to tell me.

Study examples in your course book (pp. 37-50)