



Thesis Statements & Outlines

Thesis statements:

Definition, Features, Uses

Outlines:

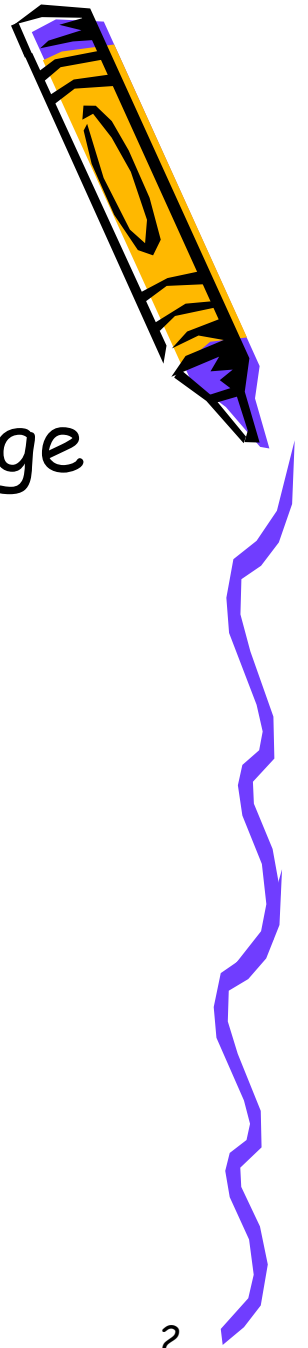
Types, Advantages, Other

Uses



Generating Ideas

- Topic: Is English a difficult language to learn?
- Result of listing:
 - Grammatical features
 - Reasons for learning English
 - Dialect problems
 - Vocabulary
 - Ways to learn

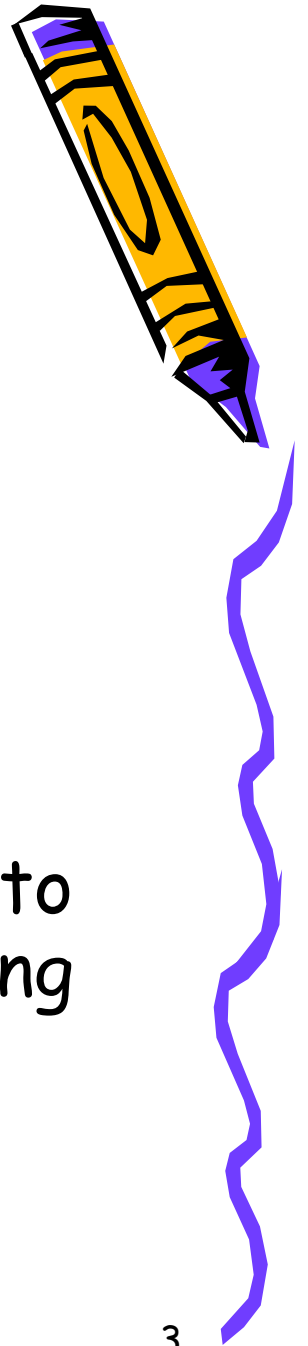


A Thesis Statement

- is a 'statement of purpose.'

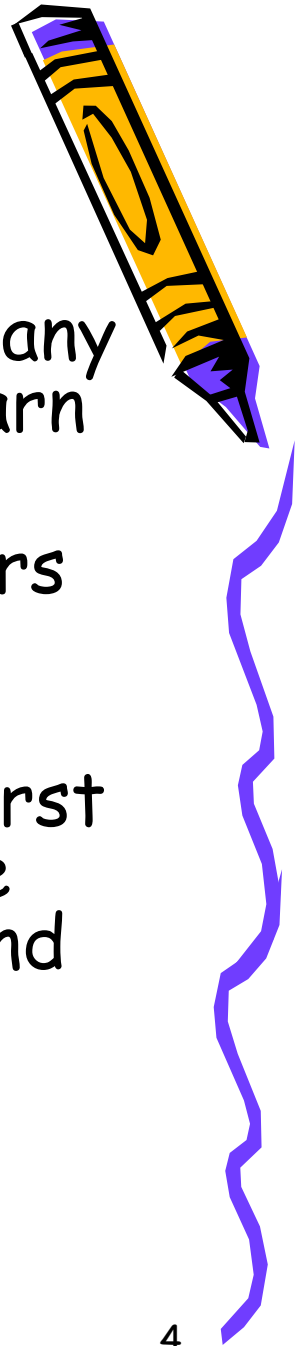
- Ask yourself:

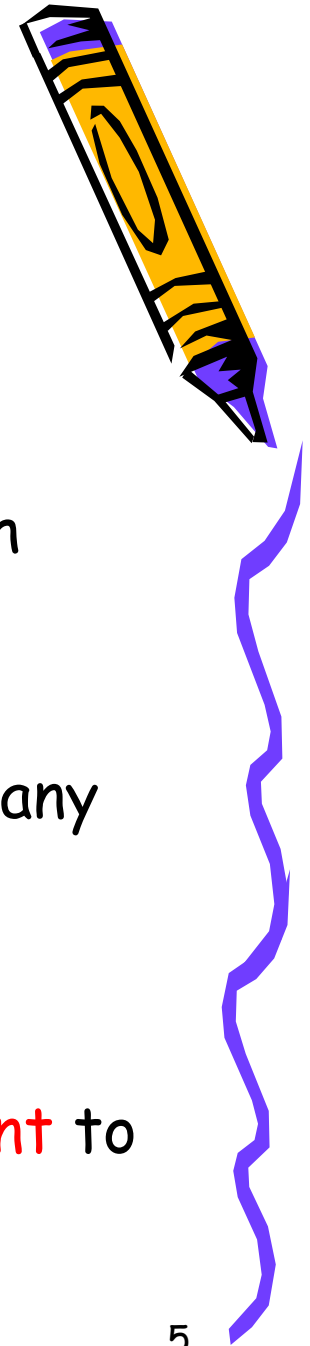
What is the main idea that I am trying to present to the reader and how am I going to put this across?



Possible thesis statements

- Although English is difficult to learn, many speakers of other languages want to learn English.
- There are three major problems learners of English encounter when they try to learn English.
- Although English is easy to learn as a first language, second language learners have problems with pronunciation, spelling, and idioms.
- Different dialects make English a hard language to learn.



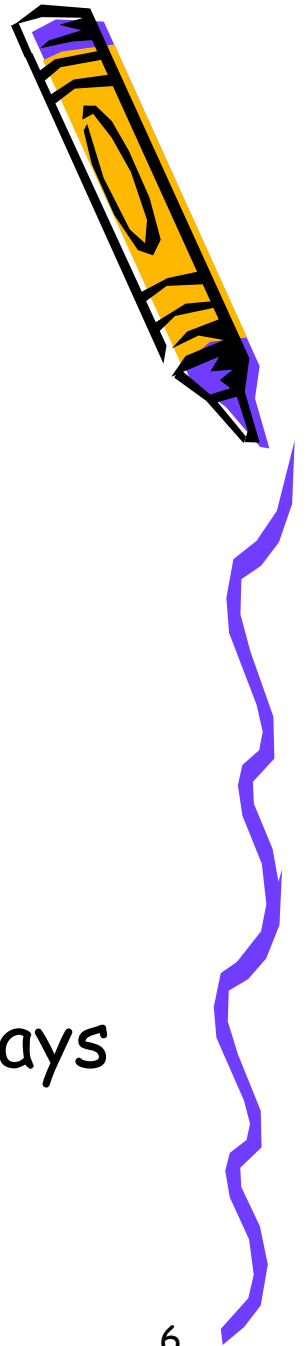


Features of Thesis Statements

- Assertion
 - **XXX** Do non-native speakers find English difficult to learn? **XXX**
- Single main clause
 - **XXX** English is difficult to learn, **BUT** many people want to learn it. **XXX**
- Specific
 - **XXX** English is not only an **interesting** language to learn, it is also very **important** to people's future. **XXX**

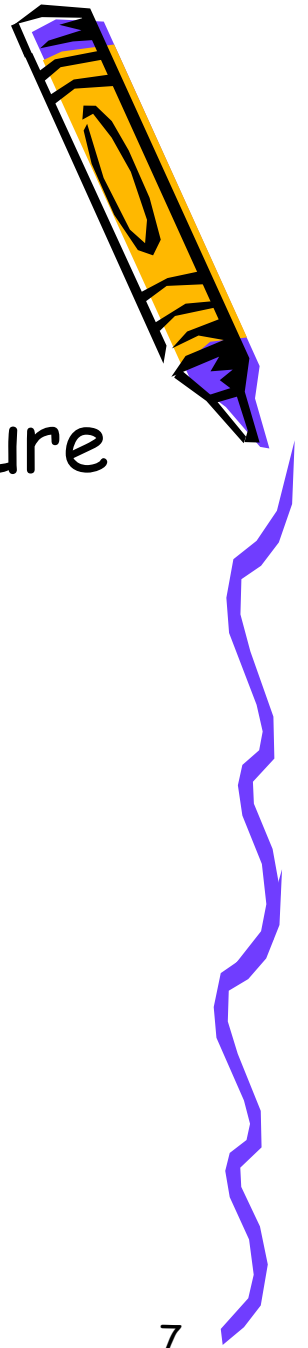
Uses of thesis statements

- When planning:
 - Organise and guide, **not** control and restrict
 - Modify as thinking develops
- When writing:
 - Place near end of Introduction in essays



Outlines

- are a plan of the order and structure of the paper
- They
 - break subject into component parts
 - move from general to specific



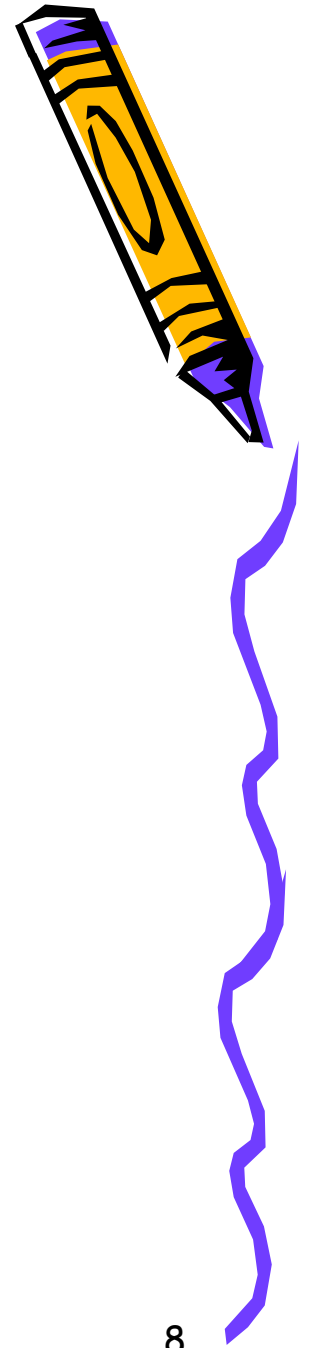
Types of Outlines

Informal

1. Outline lists
2. Clustering
3. Thesis statement + list of points
4. Thesis statement outline
5. Paragraph outline

Formal

1. Topic outline
2. Sentence outline



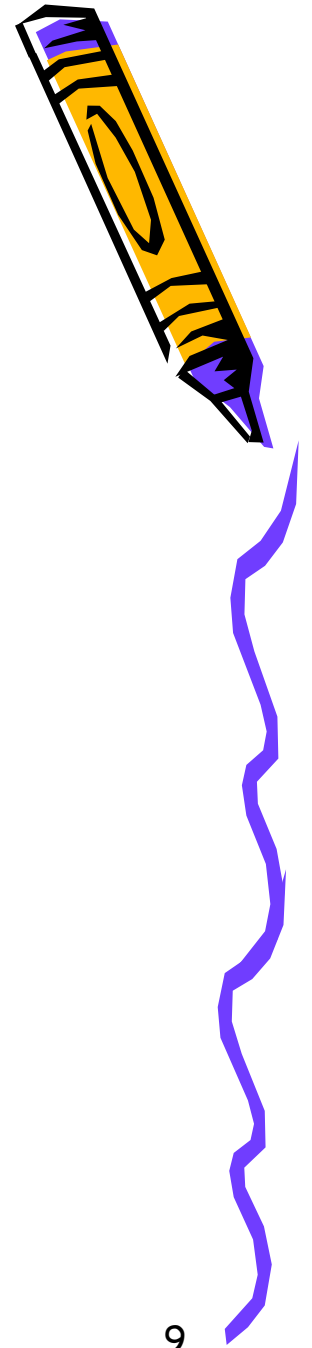
Outline Lists

Grammatical Features

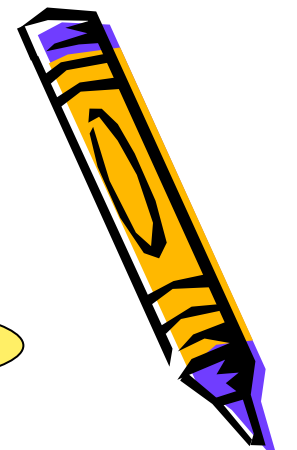
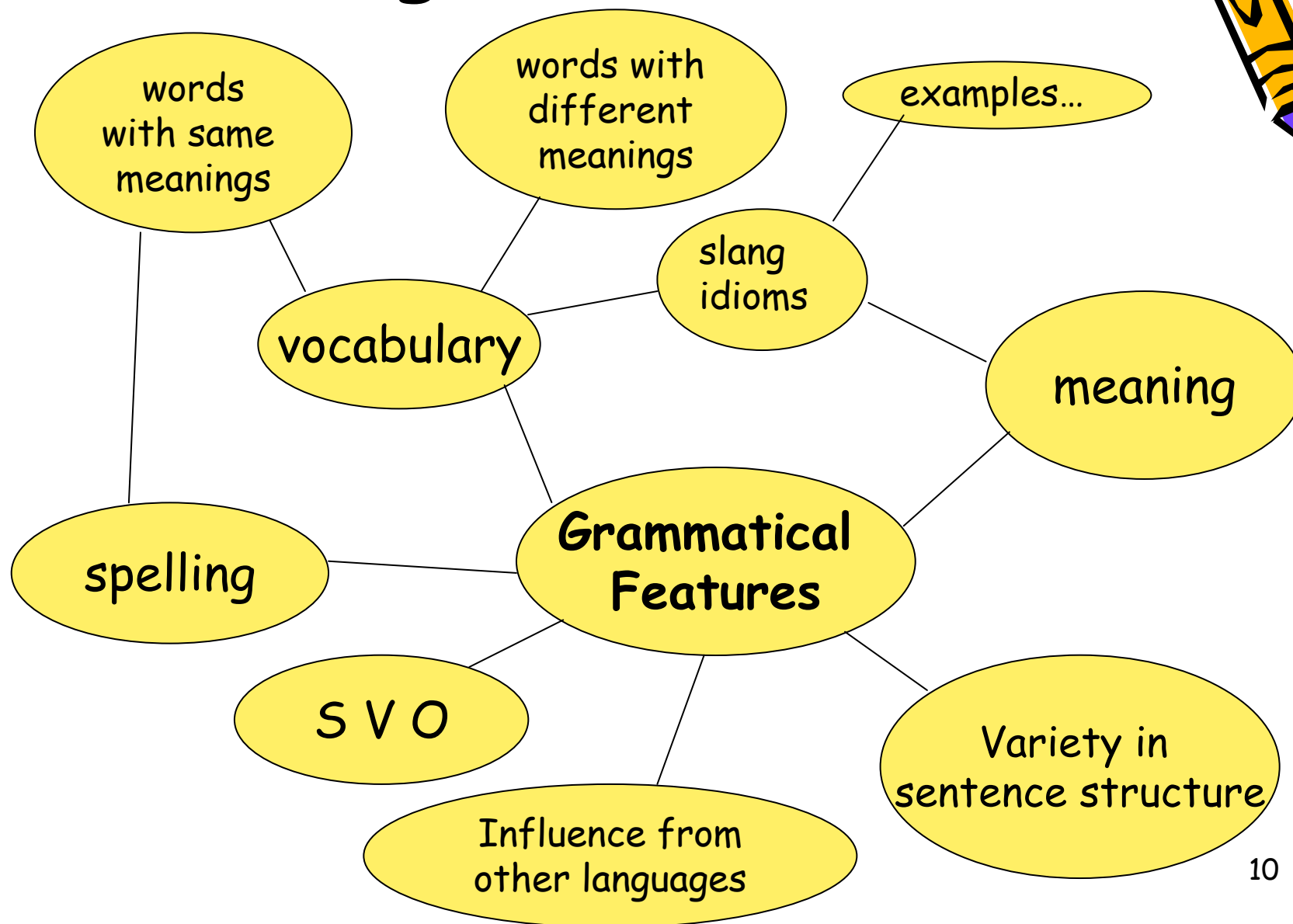
sentence structure not complex
spelling variations
vocabulary: idioms slang
meaning

Reasons for studying English

studying abroad
jobs
English books
motivation



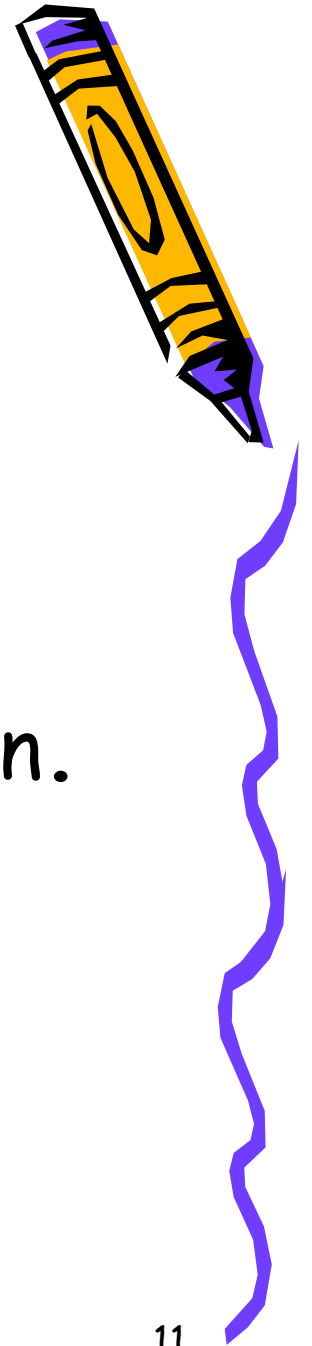
Clustering



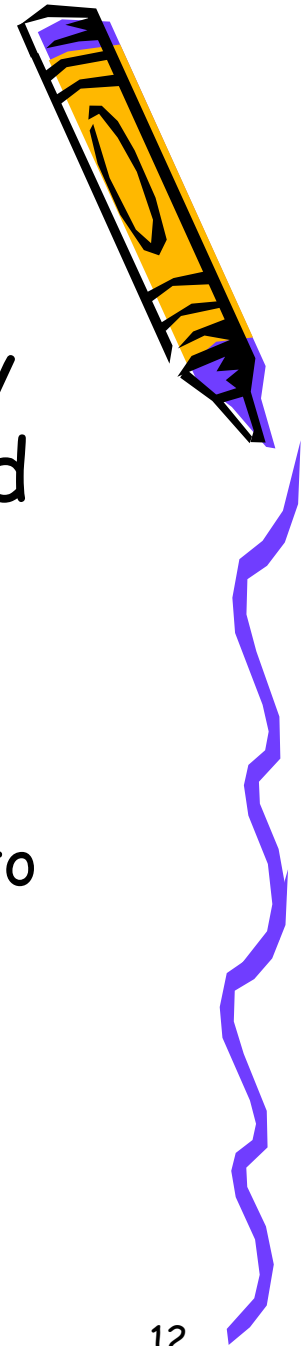
Thesis statement and list of points

Although many people want to learn English, there are a number of grammatical features that make English a difficult language to learn.

- idioms
- spelling
- vocabulary
- meaning
- sentence structure



Thesis statement Outline



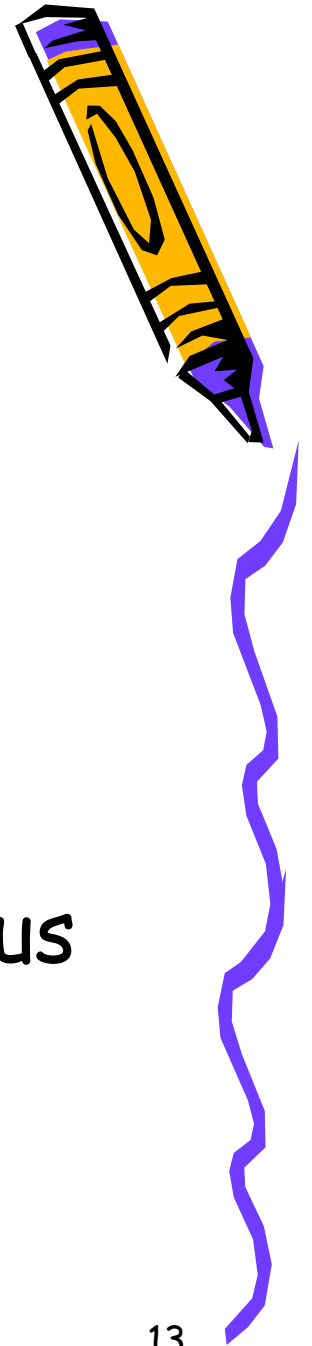
Although English grammar is relatively simple, second language learners find English difficult to learn.

1. English grammar is relatively simple
 - Verbs don't have many endings
2. Second language learners find English difficult to learn.
 - Spelling and vocabulary are difficult.
 - Dialect differences cause problems.
 - Limited access to learning opportunities.

Paragraph Outline

Advantages:

- Allows immediate start on writing
- Good for 'free spirits'
- Provides structure before you focus on mechanics of writing



English is a Difficult Language to Learn

I. Reasons for Wanting to Learn English

II. Problems

A. Listening

1. mumbling
2. speed

B. Spelling

1. spelling \neq sound
 - a. enough - though - thought
2. more than one spelling
 - a. colour, color

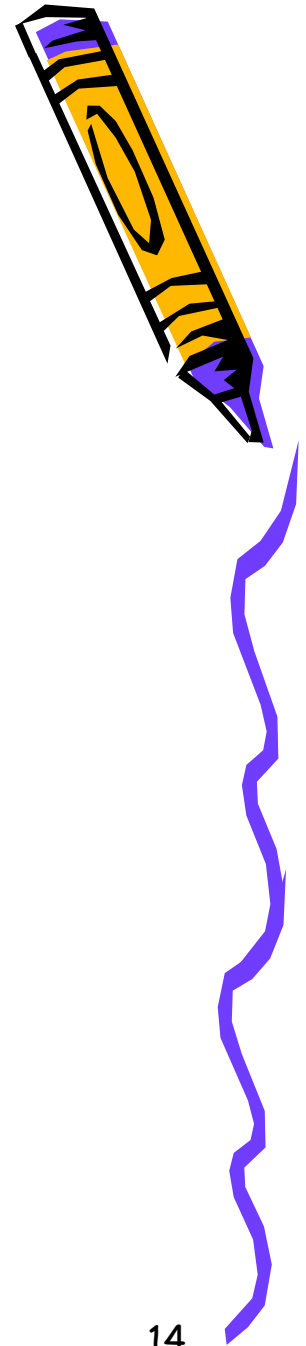
C. Vocabulary

1. idioms
2. different meanings
 - a. spring
3. same meanings
 - a. sad, unhappy, miserable

D. Pronunciation

III. Advantages

A. Simple Grammar



English is a Difficult Language to Learn

Despite the fact that there are many reasons for wanting to learn English, English is a difficult language to learn.

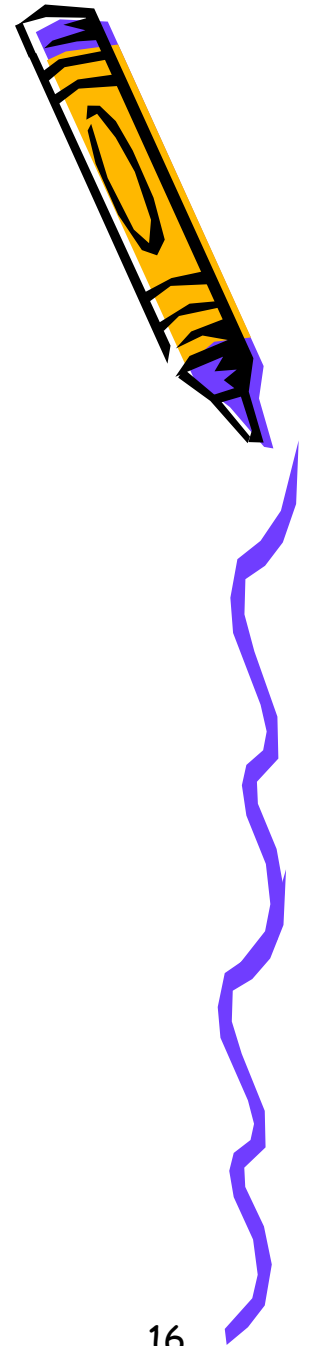


- I. There are a number of problems students of English encounter when they study English.
 - A. They often have difficulties understanding native speakers.
 1. mumbling
 2. speed
 - B. They also have difficulties with the English spelling system.
 1. spelling ≠ sound
 - a. doe, dough, no, know,
 2. more than one spelling
 - a. colour, color

etc.

Advantages of Formal Outlines

- estimate number and relative length of paragraphs
- construct topic sentences
- see the transitions within & between paragraphs
- conceptualise method of development
- estimate essay length



Other Uses

- When revising essays, they
 - highlight relationships between main and supporting ideas,
 - show patterns (logical order)
 - show repetition
 - identify insufficient evidence
- Note taking from texts
- Summarising, test review
- Preparing presentations

