


Headline:	New book aims to make grammar fun for pupils		
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Description:	Grammar looks set to become more fun for upper-primary pupils with the launch of a book yesterday by Minister of State for Education and Defence Lawrence Wong. The book, called About Grammar Intermediate, explains English-language concepts using pictures and humour. The book will also have grammar activities of varying difficulty for pupils to tackle. As it is a supplementary resource, it will not be compulsory for teachers to use the book for English-language classes.		

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New book aims to make grammar fun for pupils



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The book, called About Grammar Intermediate, explains English-language concepts using pictures and humour.

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The book can be purchased from next month for \$9.95 before GST at all major bookstores.

It is a joint effort by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the National Institute of Education. A similar book for younger pupils, called About Grammar Basic, was made available earlier this year.

On the new book, an MOE spokesman told my paper that "the extensive use of visuals and illustrations helps to make visible the complex relations in grammar, such as subject-verb agreement, which is an area of difficulty for many of our pupils".

Mr Goh Eck Kheng, chairman of the Speak Good English Movement, said that grammar is very important because the rules governing it are the "building blocks of the English language".

"Having a grasp of grammar rules will help children from non-English-speaking homes to write and speak better," he said.



Mr Goh added that children from English-speaking homes may not necessarily know the rules of grammar.

Mr Wong, who launched the new book at the fourth Inspiring Teacher Of English Award ceremony last night, said that "when you combine (the book) with an inspiring teacher, I think we have a winning combination".

During the ceremony, awards were given out to eight primary- and secondary-school teachers for their efforts in making English interesting in their classes.

Said Mr Wong: "Our schools...play a very crucial role, especially for children who do not come from English-speaking homes. And within the schools, our teachers play a vital role as standard-bearers of the language."

The award is presented jointly by The Straits Times and the Speak Good English Movement, with support from MOE.

