

# **PLAIN JANE TAGALONG**

**AND THE MAGIC DIARY**

English as a Second Language (ESL) Workbook



# PLAIN JANE TAGALONG

AND THE MAGIC DIARY

English as a Second Language (ESL) Workbook

by

MARIE CLAIRE

**PolishedPublishingGroup** 

Calgary, AB

Book One: *Plain Jane Tagalong and the Magic Diary*

Paperback Novel ISBN: 978-1-988971-53-7

Ebook Novel ISBN: 978-1-988971-54-4

Audiobook Novel ISBN: 978-1-988971-57-5

Paperback Supplemental ESL Workbook ISBN: 978-1-988971-58-2

Ebook Supplemental ESL Workbook ISBN: 978-1-988971-59-9

Using the six books in the *Plain Jane Tagalong* young adult novel series, combined with the six supplemental ESL workbooks and interactive online tutoring with the author, ESL students can improve their English skills in all of these areas: reading, listening, grammar, writing, speaking, pronunciation, TOEFL/IELTS exam preparation, and job interview preparation.

© 2024 by Marie Claire

Polished Publishing Group (PPG)

**PolishedPublishingGroup** 

*mc*  
MARIE CLAIRE

English as a Second Language (ESL)

No portion of this book may be duplicated or used in any form, by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval), for any profit-driven enterprise, without prior permission in writing from the publisher. Brief excerpts may be shared subject to inclusion of this copyright notice: © 2024 by Marie Claire. All rights reserved.

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	25
What is Slang? .....	25
Sayings/Expressions versus Idioms.....	25
What is a Saying/Expression? .....	26
What is an Idiom? .....	26
Ways of Speaking.....	26
ESL Practice Classes and Answer Keys.....	27
The Eight Parts of Speech.....	28
1. NOUNS.....	28
Common Nouns.....	28
Singular.....	29
Plural.....	29
Collective .....	29
Proper Nouns.....	29
Regular Common Nouns.....	29
Irregular Common Nouns .....	30
Possessive Nouns.....	31
2. PRONOUNS.....	31
Subjects versus Objects .....	32
First Person, Second Person, Third Person .....	32
Singular, Plural, or Collective .....	32
The Six Pronoun Types.....	32
Personal Pronouns.....	33
Possessive Pronouns.....	35

Reflexive Pronouns.....	36
Indefinite Pronouns.....	38
Relative Pronouns .....	39
Demonstrative Pronouns .....	40
3. VERBS .....	40
Action Verbs .....	40
First Person (Past, Present, Future, Conditional) .....	40
Second Person (Past, Present, Future, Conditional).....	41
Third Person (Past, Present, Future, Conditional) .....	41
Linking (Helping) Verbs .....	41
First Person (Past, Present, Future, Conditional) .....	41
Second Person (Past, Present, Future, Conditional).....	42
Third Person (Past, Present, Future, Conditional) .....	43
Regular Verbs .....	43
Irregular Verbs.....	44
The 16 Verb Tenses .....	44
The Four Past Tenses.....	44
The Four Present Tenses .....	45
The Four Future Tenses.....	45
The Four Conditional Tenses (can be past, present, or future conditional).....	45
4. ADJECTIVES .....	45
Descriptive Adjectives .....	45
Predicate Adjectives.....	46
Nouns as Adjectives .....	47
Example One .....	47
Example Two .....	47

Articles .....	47
Definite Article.....	47
Indefinite Articles.....	48
Demonstrative Adjectives.....	48
Singular Demonstrative Adjectives .....	48
Plural Demonstrative Adjectives.....	48
Possessive Adjectives.....	49
Indefinite Adjectives .....	49
Questioning Adjectives .....	50
5. ADVERBS.....	50
Adverbs Describing/Modifying Verbs.....	50
Adverbs Describing/Modifying Adjectives .....	50
Adverbs Describing/Modifying Adverbs.....	51
Conjunctive Adverbs.....	51
Sentence Adverbs .....	52
6. PREPOSITIONS .....	53
Prepositional Phrases .....	55
7. CONJUNCTIONS .....	55
Coordinating Conjunctions .....	55
Correlative Conjunctions .....	56
8. INTERJECTIONS .....	56
Be My Valentine .....	58
Vocabulary.....	58
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	58
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	59
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	61

B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate).....	67
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	69
80s Slang .....	72
Sayings/Expressions .....	73
Idioms.....	75
It's a Delicate Dance.....	77
Vocabulary .....	77
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	77
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	78
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	80
B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate).....	83
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	85
80s Slang .....	86
Sayings/Expressions .....	87
Idioms.....	87
Vision Quest .....	89
Vocabulary .....	89
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	89
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	90
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	92
B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate).....	94
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	96
80s Slang .....	97
Sayings/Expressions .....	97
Idioms.....	98
Poker Face.....	99



Vocabulary .....	99
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	99
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	100
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	101
B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate) .....	103
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	105
80s Slang.....	106
Sayings/Expressions.....	107
Idioms .....	108
A New Start.....	110
Vocabulary.....	110
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	110
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	110
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	110
B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate) .....	111
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	112
80s Slang.....	112
Sayings/Expressions.....	113
Idioms .....	113
Totally Tubular.....	115
Vocabulary.....	115
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	115
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	115
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	115
B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate) .....	116
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	116

80s Slang .....	117
Sayings/Expressions .....	118
Idioms.....	118
The Magic Diary .....	120
Vocabulary .....	120
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	120
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	120
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	121
B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate).....	122
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	123
80s Slang .....	124
Sayings/Expressions .....	125
Idioms.....	125
Sample ESL Practice Classes.....	126
ESL Practice Class #1: Nouns .....	126
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	126
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	126
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	127
Section 3: True or False .....	127
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	128
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	128
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	129
Section 3: True or False .....	129
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	129
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	129
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	130

Section 3: True or False.....	131
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	131
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	131
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	132
Section 3: True or False.....	133
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	133
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	133
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	134
Section 3: True or False.....	134
ESL Practice Class #2: Pronouns .....	135
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	135
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	135
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	136
Section 3: True or False.....	136
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	137
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	137
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	138
Section 3: True or False.....	138
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	138
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	138
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	139
Section 3: True or False.....	140
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	140
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	140
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	141
Section 3: True or False.....	142

C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	142
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	142
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	143
Section 3: True or False .....	143
ESL Practice Class #3: Verbs .....	144
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	144
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	144
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	145
Section 3: True or False .....	145
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	146
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	146
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	147
Section 3: True or False .....	147
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	148
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	148
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	149
Section 3: True or False .....	149
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate).....	150
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	150
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	151
Section 3: True or False .....	151
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	152
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	152
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	153
Section 3: True or False .....	153
ESL Practice Class #4: Adjectives.....	154

A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	154
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	154
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	155
Section 3: True or False.....	155
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	156
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	156
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	157
Section 3: True or False.....	157
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	158
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	158
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	159
Section 3: True or False.....	159
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	160
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	160
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	161
Section 3: True or False.....	161
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	161
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	161
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	163
Section 3: True or False.....	163
ESL Practice Class #5: Adverbs.....	163
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	163
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	163
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	165
Section 3: True or False.....	165
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	165

Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	165
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	167
Section 3: True or False .....	167
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	167
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	167
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	169
Section 3: True or False .....	169
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate).....	169
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	169
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	171
Section 3: True or False .....	171
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	172
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	172
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	173
Section 3: True or False .....	174
ESL Practice Class #6: Prepositions .....	174
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	174
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	174
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	175
Section 3: True or False .....	176
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	176
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	176
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	177
Section 3: True or False .....	178
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	178
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	178

Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	179
Section 3: True or False.....	179
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	180
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	180
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	181
Section 3: True or False.....	182
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	182
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	182
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	183
Section 3: True or False.....	184
ESL Practice Class #7: Conjunctions.....	184
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	184
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	184
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	185
Section 3: True or False.....	186
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	186
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	186
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	187
Section 3: True or False.....	188
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	188
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	188
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	189
Section 3: True or False.....	190
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	190
Section 1: Multiple Choice.....	190
Section 2: Sentence Completion.....	191

Section 3: True or False .....	192
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	192
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	192
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	194
Section 3: True or False .....	194
ESL Practice Class #8: Interjections .....	194
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	194
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	194
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	196
Section 3: True or False .....	196
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	196
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	196
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	198
Section 3: True or False .....	198
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	198
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	198
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	200
Section 3: True or False .....	200
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	200
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	200
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	202
Section 3: True or False .....	202
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	202
Section 1: Multiple Choice .....	202
Section 2: Sentence Completion .....	204
Section 3: True or False .....	204



Other Books in This Series .....	205
Six Young Adult Fiction Novels .....	205
English Reading and Listening.....	205
Six Workbooks Containing 28 ESL Practice Classes .....	205
Workbook #1: English Grammar (The Eight Parts of Speech) .....	205
Workbook #2: English Writing .....	206
Workbook #3: English Pronunciation (Canadian/American) .....	206
Workbook #4: Communicate Like Native English Speakers.....	206
Workbook #5: Practice Tests for English Language Proficiency .....	207
Workbook #6: English for Job Interview Preparation .....	207
Your Personal Online TESOL Tutor .....	207
Discussion (Speaking Practice).....	207
Answer Keys.....	210
ESL Practice Class #1: Nouns .....	210
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	210
Section 1: .....	210
Section 2: .....	210
Section 3: .....	210
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	211
Section 1: .....	211
Section 2: .....	211
Section 3: .....	211
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	211
Section 1: .....	211
Section 2: .....	212
Section 3: .....	212

B2 English Proficiency (Upper-Intermediate) Level.....	212
Section 1:.....	212
Section 2:.....	213
Section 3:.....	213
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	213
Section 1:.....	213
Section 2:.....	213
Section 3:.....	214
ESL Practice Class #2: Pronouns.....	214
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	214
Section 1:.....	214
Section 2:.....	214
Section 3:.....	215
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	215
Section 1:.....	215
Section 2:.....	215
Section 3:.....	215
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	216
Section 1:.....	216
Section 2:.....	216
Section 3:.....	216
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate).....	217
Section 1:.....	217
Section 2:.....	217
Section 3:.....	217
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	217

Section 1: .....	217
Section 2: .....	218
Section 3: .....	218
ESL Practice Class #3: Verbs.....	218
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	218
Section 1: .....	218
Section 2: .....	219
Section 3: .....	219
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	219
Section 1: .....	219
Section 2: .....	219
Section 3: .....	220
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	220
Section 1: .....	220
Section 2: .....	220
Section 3: .....	221
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	221
Section 1: .....	221
Section 2: .....	221
Section 3: .....	221
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	222
Section 1: .....	222
Section 2: .....	222
Section 3: .....	222
ESL Practice Class #4: Adjectives .....	223
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	223

Section 1:.....	223
Section 2:.....	223
Section 3:.....	223
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	223
Section 1:.....	223
Section 2:.....	224
Section 3:.....	224
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	224
Section 1:.....	224
Section 2:.....	225
Section 3:.....	225
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate).....	225
Section 1:.....	225
Section 2:.....	225
Section 3:.....	226
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	226
Section 1:.....	226
Section 2:.....	226
Section 3:.....	226
ESL Practice Class #5: Adverbs .....	227
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	227
Section 1:.....	227
Section 2:.....	227
Section 3:.....	227
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	228
Section 1:.....	228

Section 2: .....	228
Section 3: .....	228
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	229
Section 1: .....	229
Section 2: .....	229
Section 3: .....	229
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	229
Section 1: .....	229
Section 2: .....	230
Section 3: .....	230
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	230
Section 1: .....	230
Section 2: .....	231
Section 3: .....	231
ESL Practice Class #6: Prepositions.....	231
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	231
Section 1: .....	231
Section 2: .....	231
Section 3: .....	232
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	232
Section 1: .....	232
Section 2: .....	232
Section 3: .....	233
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	233
Section 1: .....	233
Section 2: .....	233

Section 3:.....	233
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate).....	234
Section 1:.....	234
Section 2:.....	234
Section 3:.....	234
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced) .....	235
Section 1:.....	235
Section 2:.....	235
Section 3:.....	235
ESL Practice Class #7: Conjunctions .....	235
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner) .....	235
Section 1:.....	235
Section 2:.....	236
Section 3:.....	236
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary) .....	236
Section 1:.....	236
Section 2:.....	237
Section 3:.....	237
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate).....	237
Section 1:.....	237
Section 2:.....	237
Section 3:.....	238
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate).....	238
Section 1:.....	238
Section 2:.....	238
Section 3:.....	238

C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	239
Section 1: .....	239
Section 2: .....	239
Section 3: .....	239
ESL Practice Class #8: Interjections .....	240
A1 English Proficiency Level (Beginner).....	240
Section 1: .....	240
Section 2: .....	240
Section 3: .....	240
A2 English Proficiency Level (Elementary).....	240
Section 1: .....	240
Section 2: .....	241
Section 3: .....	241
B1 English Proficiency Level (Intermediate) .....	241
Section 1: .....	241
Section 2: .....	242
Section 3: .....	242
B2 English Proficiency Level (Upper-Intermediate) .....	242
Section 1: .....	242
Section 2: .....	242
Section 3: .....	243
C1 English Proficiency Level (Advanced).....	243
Section 1: .....	243
Section 2: .....	243
Section 3: .....	243





# Introduction

Welcome to the first English as a Second Language (ESL) workbook that accompanies the first novel in the *Plain Jane Tagalong* young adult book series: *Plain Jane Tagalong and the Magic Diary*. This workbook contains many vocabulary words from the novel, broken down by A1, A2, B1, B2, and C1 English proficiency levels so that everyone can use it as a learning tool, no matter which level you are starting at. Some of the vocabulary words can be found in the English dictionary while others relate to various slang words, sayings/expressions, and idioms that were commonly used by native English-speaking teenagers in Canada during the 1980s. In fact, many of these unique phrases are still used today.

## What is Slang?

Slang refers to a type of informal, non-standard language that is often characterized by its creativity, playfulness, and use of words and phrases that are not typically found in formal or standard speech. Slang terms and expressions are usually specific to particular groups, subcultures, or generations and can vary significantly by region, age, or social context.

This book contains a description of slang terms used in *Plain Jane Tagalong and the Magic Diary*. Specifically, the slang words used here were common in Canada in the 1980s. Many of the slang terms and speech used in the book (e.g., “totally tubular,” and inserting “like” and “Oh my God” into many sentences) are “Val speak” from the San Fernando Valley in Southern California. Val speak was picked up by Canadian teenagers and young adults from watching television shows and listening to a song, “Valley Girls” that was popular in the early 1980s.

## Sayings/Expressions versus Idioms

You may find, when communicating with native English speakers, that sometimes they use certain sayings/expressions and idioms that you did not

### *Plain Jane Tagalong and the Magic Diary*

learn in your English grammar classes. It may be difficult to fully understand all the conversations around you because of this. This workbook will help you better understand these conversations by teaching you the meanings behind some common phrases.

We'll go into further depth on how to speak like a native English speaker later in this series. Please refer to **Other Books in This Series** for more details.

### **What is a Saying/Expression?**

A saying/expression is a phrase that expresses a common belief among people. The words used in the phrase are usually related to its overall meaning. For example, "once bitten, twice shy" is a saying that expresses how extra careful we become (twice shy) after our first experience with something was unpleasant (once bitten).

### **What is an Idiom?**

An idiom is a peculiar expression that conveys an idea unrelated to the dictionary meaning of the words being used. For example, "it's raining cats and dogs" simply means "it is raining heavily outside." You'll never see actual cats and dogs falling from the sky—at least, I hope you never will!

As you read through *Plain Jane Tagalong*, you'll come across many sayings/expressions and idioms that may not be common to you but are commonly used by native English speakers. Their meanings are discussed in this workbook to help increase your understanding.

## **Ways of Speaking**

You'll also notice, as you read *Plain Jane Tagalong and the Magic Diary*, that the girls use the word "like" repeatedly throughout their dialog, and the boys relate to people using the terms "man" or "dude" when they speak. These are simply filler words—patterns of speaking that were common among young social groups in the Canadian culture in the 1980s.

## ESL Practice Classes and Answer Keys

Toward the end of this workbook, there are some basic ESL practice classes (including answer keys) that you can use for self-study, to test your English skills. Again, everything is broken down by A1, A2, B1, B2, and C1 English proficiency levels so anyone can use this as a learning tool, no matter which level you're starting at.

To receive the best value out of these sample self-study English classes, you can also hire me (the author and publisher of this series) as your personal tutor for a more fun and interactive online learning experience. I am a native English speaker and certified Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) tutor with 30 years of experience as a professional writer, published author, and book publisher. I will go over each lesson with you, one by one, to ensure you understand them, while adding other games and interesting discussions into the mix. By practicing your speaking and pronunciation skills with a native English speaker like me, you will further improve your ability to communicate in real world situations with other native speakers.

Of course, before you do that, let's start by taking a closer look at the eight parts of speech in the English language to help build and strengthen your English grammar foundation.

# The Eight Parts of Speech

There are eight parts of speech in the English language. Here is a brief overview of them:

1. **Nouns:** words that identify a person, place, thing, or idea
2. **Pronouns:** words used in place of nouns
3. **Verbs:** words that express an action or state of being
4. **Adjectives:** words that describe or modify (add to) nouns or pronouns
5. **Adverbs:** words that describe or modify (add to) verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs
6. **Prepositions:** words that are placed before nouns or pronouns to form a phrase that modifies (adds to) another word in the same sentence
7. **Conjunctions:** words that connect sentence elements (e.g., words, clauses, or phrases) together
8. **Interjections:** words used to express an emotion

Each one has its own unique features. Let's get into those features in more detail now.

## 1. NOUNS

Nouns are words that identify a person, place, thing, or idea. There are two main types of nouns: common nouns and proper nouns.

### Common Nouns

- describe a person, thing, or idea
- do not require a capital letter at the beginning of the word unless that word lands at the beginning of a sentence

Common nouns can be either **singular (one)**, **plural (two or more)**, or **collective (a large group of something)**. Here are some examples:

## Singular

These are examples of singular nouns describing one person, place, thing, or idea: **mom, dad, pet, cat, home, town, city, car, girl, boy, brother, sister, child, teacher, school, man, woman, coach, plain Jane, tagalong, mascara, romance, story, teenager, choir director.**

## Plural

These are examples of plural nouns describing two or more of the same: **moms, dads, pets, cats, homes, towns, cities, cars, girls, boys, brothers, sisters, children, teachers, schools, men, women, coaches, plain Janes, tagalongs, mascaras, romances, stories, teenagers.**

## Collective

These are examples of collective nouns describing a large group of things: **choir, class, family, collection.**

## Proper Nouns

- identify a specific (named) person, animal, place, or thing
- require a capital letter at the beginning of the word (or words)

Proper nouns are almost always singular because they refer to one person, animal, place, or thing with a specific name. For example: **Jane, Plain Jane Tagalong, Trisha, Lisa, Cat Ballou, Lanigan, Saskatoon, Lanigan Elementary School.**

Two examples of exceptions to this rule are the proper nouns **ChapStick** (the brand name of a popular lip balm used to moisten dry lips) and **Erasermate** (the brand name of a pen that uses erasable ink). Since there are many different flavours of this lip balm, and a few different kinds (colours) of this pen, you can have two or more **ChapSticks** or **Erasermates** in your possession.

## Regular Common Nouns

Regular common nouns become plural if an “s” or “es” is added to the end of the word. For example:

- **mom** becomes **moms**

*Plain Jane Tagalong and the Magic Diary*

- **dad** becomes **dads**
- **pet** becomes **pets**
- **cat** becomes **cats**
- **home** becomes **homes**
- **town** becomes **towns**
- **car** becomes **cars**
- **girl** becomes **girls**
- **boy** becomes **boys**
- **brother** becomes **brothers**
- **sister** becomes **sisters**
- **teacher** becomes **teachers**
- **school** becomes **schools**
- **coach** becomes **coaches**
- **plain Jane** becomes **plain Janes**
- **tagalong** becomes **tagalongs**
- **mascara** becomes **mascaras**
- **romance** becomes **romances**
- **teenager** becomes **teenagers**
- **choir director** becomes **choir directors**
- **choir** becomes **choirs**
- **class** becomes **classes**
- **collection** becomes **collections**
- **ChapStick** becomes **ChapSticks**

### **Irregular Common Nouns**

Irregular common nouns do not follow the same rule as regular nouns do. When these nouns change from singular to plural, the spelling of the word changes slightly. For example:

- **story** becomes **stories**
- **city** becomes **cities**
- **child** becomes **children**
- **man** becomes **men**
- **woman** becomes **women**
- **family** becomes **families**

# Other Books in This Series

There will be six novels, in total, in the *Plain Jane Tagalong* young adult fiction series. They will follow the main character's journey from grade eight (elementary school) to the end of grade 12 (high school graduation) in Canada in the 1980s. Six supplementary English as a Second Language (ESL) workbooks will also be created to complement these novels. My goal, as your online distance learning tutor, is to help you learn English in a fun and interesting way through these stories.

## Six Young Adult Fiction Novels

The six young adult fiction novels will be published in both ebook and paperback format for you. They can be ordered either from Amazon or from just about any other traditional bookstore of your choice throughout the world. Do a search for them using your favourite search engine (e.g., Google, Bing, Yahoo, Baidu) to find a suitable retailer in your area.

## English Reading and Listening

You can improve your English reading skills by using the ebooks and/or paperbacks as part of your ESL studies. But that's not all! Six audiobook versions of these novels will also be created to help you practice your English listening skills. This will aid you in understanding and communicating more confidently with native English speakers in North America.

## Six Workbooks Containing 28 ESL Practice Classes

Each young adult fiction novel will have a supplemental ESL workbook to go along with it. These workbooks are designed to help you further improve the following English skills through self-study and online tutoring:

### Workbook #1: English Grammar (The Eight Parts of Speech)

1. **Nouns:** words that identify a person, place, thing, or idea
2. **Pronouns:** words used in place of nouns

*Plain Jane Tagalong and the Magic Diary*

3. **Verbs:** words that express an action or state of being
4. **Adjectives:** words that describe or modify (add to) nouns or pronouns
5. **Adverbs:** words that describe or modify (add to) verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs
6. **Prepositions:** words that are placed before nouns or pronouns to form a phrase that modifies (adds to) another word in the same sentence
7. **Conjunctions:** words that connect sentence elements (e.g., words, clauses, or phrases) together
8. **Interjections:** words used to express an emotion

### Workbook #2: English Writing

9. **Basic Sentence Structure:** the subject, the action (predicate), the object, and the completed thought (independent clause)
10. **Sentence Purpose (Punctuation):** making a statement versus asking a question
11. **Sentence Fragments:** speaking English versus writing English
12. **Run-on Sentences:** a simple sentence versus a sentence with more than one clause
13. **Independent and Dependent Clauses:** coordination versus subordination ([see Conjunctions in book one for reference](#))
14. **Comma Splices:** using commas versus using semicolons
15. **Sentence Types:** simple, compound, complex, and compound/complex sentences
16. **Subject and Verb Agreement:** first person, second person, and third person consistency (narration)
17. **Using Italics:** titles, emphasis

### Workbook #3: English Pronunciation (Canadian/American)

18. **The Basics:** vowels, adjectives, common letter combinations
19. **Exceptions:** memorizing the exceptions to the rules ([see Indefinite Articles in book one for reference](#))

### Workbook #4: Communicate Like Native English Speakers

20. **Sayings/Expressions and Idioms:** additional common Canadian and American conversational phrases ([see book one for reference](#))



21. **Important Differences:** British versus North American meanings
22. **Contractions, Slang, and Portmanteaus:** formal English versus informal English/slang
23. **Connected Speech:** stress and rhythm

### **Workbook #5: Practice Tests for English Language Proficiency**

24. **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):** practice tests for listening, reading, writing, and speaking
25. **International English Language Testing System (IELTS):** practice tests for listening, reading, writing, and speaking

### **Workbook #6: English for Job Interview Preparation**

26. **Writing a Cover Letter:** intro, body, conclusion, and salutation
27. **Designing an Effective Resume:** what to include, how long should it be
28. **Job Interview:** preparing for common interview questions

## **Your Personal Online TESOL Tutor**

To receive the best value out of these sample self-study English classes, you can also hire me (the author and publisher of this series) as your personal tutor for a more fun and interactive online learning experience. I am a native English speaker and a certified Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) tutor with 30 years of experience as a professional writer, published author, and book publisher. I will go over each lesson with you, one by one, to ensure you understand them, while adding other games and interesting discussions into the mix. By practicing your speaking and pronunciation skills with a native English speaker like me, you will further improve your ability to communicate in real world situations with other native speakers.

### **Discussion (Speaking Practice)**

I would love to engage with you personally and have created many interesting conversational classes to add to the mix. Here are just a few example class topics, based on the first novel in this series:



Visit our website for more information on fun ESL group sessions:  
<https://marieclairesl.com/>