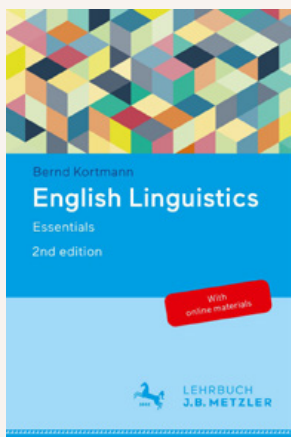


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The author

Bernd Kortmann is Professor of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and, since 2013, Executive Director of FRIAS (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies). He has been a long-time editor of the two international book series *Topics in English Linguistics* and *Dialects of English* as well as journal editor of *English Language and Linguistics*.

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This book has been accompanying me ever since it was first published, and it has been superb company. Written by an outstanding researcher and highly experienced teacher, it takes readers all the way from basic definition to advanced theoretical and methodological issues, in eminently accessible style and with highly effective visuals. The new chapters on recent trends in the field and online resources make for great additions that will bring English linguistics even closer to readers' own experience. *Essentials* has been and will be one of the best textbooks on the market!

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This is a superb introduction both to general linguistics, for students specializing in English, and to English linguistics. It covers all the key areas, from sounds through morphology and syntax and different kinds of meanings, to sociolinguistics, historical linguistics and language typology. There are several features that I find particularly impressive and distinctive: it gives students a clear sense of the history of the discipline and of modern research methods; it presents English as a world language with its many varieties; and it links features of English and World English to language typology, i.e. to patterns of variation in languages across the globe, and to contrasting properties in one of its closest historical relatives, German. All the chapters are well written, the many tables and key words are particularly clarifying, and the references to further studies, follow-up materials and accessible databases are second to none. This is the best textbook I know of for any student anywhere in the world who wishes to study linguistics with a particular focus on English.

Daniel Schreier (U Zurich, Switzerland):

This is a well-written and truly exciting introduction to English linguistics, providing a thorough and detailed survey, including an inspiring account of sociolinguistics, regional and social varieties. The roadmap for turns and trends in the 21st century is thought-provoking for BA and MA students alike. Readers are taken by hand and guided step-by-step through the essential fields, with exercises that are ideally suited for practical work. Highly recommended!

Graeme Trousdale (U Edinburgh, UK):

Kortmann's text provides a terrific guide for students of English linguistics. It is comprehensive in its coverage, clear in its use of terminology, and really engaging in its written style and use of exercises. In addition to providing a lucid account of key topics in the structure of modern English, Kortmann also provides a very helpful survey of varieties of English, and makes a number of illuminating connections with wider issues in linguistic theory.

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