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## Grammar

M Swan

## Oxford Introductions to Language Study Series

Oxford University Press, 2005130 pp. $£ 9.25$
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Ronald Carter
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Bill Shankly, the renowned manager of the Liverpool football team in the

1970s, once said that simplicity is genius. This is a very simply written book. It is characterized by remarkable lucidity of explanation and example, by clearly described and justified extracts from core works in the field, and by cogent summaries throughout of key trends and tendencies. There are very few writers currently in the field of ELT who have the gift, the genius even, of appropriately simple description and explanation. David Crystal is one; Michael Swan is another. In this book Michael Swan is writing about a subject which he has distinguished by his own work over many years. He is close to the subject; and the risk is all the higher therefore that he is too close to stand back and distil its essences. To...
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