

AAE103

L22 : Current Changes -- Grammar

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historical changes

- English used to have variable word order
- we now have fewer inflections, so word order is more important

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

Whan that Aprill, with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote
And bathed every veyne in swich licour,
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his sweete breath
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours yronne ...

Grammar is still changing

- split infinitives
- whom
- shall
- perfective

split infinitives

to quickly finish (to Adv V)

? I will try to quickly finish the assignment.

shall

- should *shall* be used for first person?

? I will do it tomorrow.

whom

- is *whom* needed for objective relative pronouns?
- ? The man who I met was very tall.
? I don't know who you were talking to.

perfective

- must perfective be used with *just*?
- ? I just ate.

style of email

- what style is required?
- are abbreviations acceptable?
- is SMS usage OK?
- which do you prefer?

Dear Professor Deterding,

Kindly be informed that my presence in class today will not be possible. Herewith attached is my assignment for your perusal.

Yours Sincerely,

Tan Ping Pong

Dear Dr Deterding,

Please note that I will not be able to come to class today. Here is my assignment.

Regards,

Tan Ping Pong

Hi,

can't make it 2day. hope u can look at this.

CU L8R,

Ping Pong