



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

P.O. Box 972-60200 – Meru-Kenya

Tel: +254(0) 799 529 958, +254(0) 799 529 959, + 254 (0) 712 524 293,

Website: [info@must.ac.ke](mailto:info@must.ac.ke) Email: [info@must.ac.ke](mailto:info@must.ac.ke)

---

## University Examinations 2024/2025

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION ARTS

### EEL 3100: INTRODUCTION TO THE DESCRIPTION OF ENGLISH

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

---

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

---

#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Define the term linguistics and explain its relevance to the study of the English language. (3 marks)
- b) Identify and briefly explain any two schools of grammar. (3 marks)
- c) Differentiate between open-word classes and closed-word classes in English, giving two examples for each. (4 marks)
- d) Briefly describe two key characteristics of the English language. (4 marks)
- e) Identify and describe two types of English phrases. Provide examples. (4 marks)
- f) Explain the difference between main clauses and subordinate clauses in English. Provide examples. (4 marks)
- g) Briefly explain four types of sentences based on structure. (4 marks)
- h) Analyze the following sentence and identify the subject, verb, and object. Discuss how the SVO structure contributes to the clarity of the sentence:  
"The researcher conducted a comprehensive study." (4 marks)

- i) Construct a grammatically correct sentence, demonstrating subject-verb agreement and appropriate word order.

### **QUESTION TWO (15 MARKS)**

Analyze the structure and function of the following sentence:

"The students were excited when the teacher announced a surprise test."

In your response, identify and classify the word classes of each word, examine the types of clauses present in the sentence, and explain how both the word classes and clauses contribute to the overall meaning and clarity of the sentence.

### **QUESTION THREE (15 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss the difference between the past, present, and future tenses in English. Provide examples that demonstrate the correct use of each tense. (5marks)
- b) Explain the difference between progressive and perfect aspects. Provide one example of sentences that illustrate the use of the progressive and perfect aspects in both the past and present tenses. (10 marks)

### **QUESTION FOUR (15 MARKS)**

- a) Explain the role of phonetics and phonology in the study of English Language. (5marks)
- b) Briefly describe two major components of the sound system of English Language. (5marks)
- c) Identify and classify the following sentences as simple, compound, or complex. Provide a brief explanation for your classification.
  - i) Although it was raining, we decided to go for a walk.
  - ii) The cat slept on the couch.
  - iii) She wanted to go to the party, but she was too tired.
  - iv) When the sun sets, the sky turns orange.

v) I enjoy reading books, and my brother likes watching movies.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss four-word formation processes in English that result in the creation of new words  
(5 marks)
- b) Discuss the importance of subject-verb agreement in English. Provide five common errors in subject-verb agreement structures and give their correct forms. (10 marks)