Introduction

The activities on these webpages are designed to be used after the relevant chapter has been read, as a way of checking and consolidating your understanding of the concepts introduced in the chapter, and offering further practice in applying them to text analysis. For each set of exercises, answers and (where relevant) a commentary on the analyses are provided in a second document.

The online materials also include a glossary of key terms and a chapter on groups and phrases. The latter had to be omitted from the printed version of the second and the current edition because of lack of space. The main focus in the book is on clauses: that is, the elements which perform a function at clause level, the different types of clauses, and the ways in which clause-level choices are deployed in text. But for anyone interested in a more delicate analysis of the clause elements themselves – how they are made up, and what functions can be realized within them – it is essential to understand how choices within groups and phrases operate. The website chapter will provide a starting point for that kind of analysis.