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Grammar Choices is a different kind of grammar book:

- It is written for graduate students, including master's, MBA, and doctoral candidates, as well as postdoctoral researchers and faculty.
- It describes the language of advanced academic writing with more than 300 real examples from successful graduate students and from published texts.
- Grammar is presented through a functional description of the resources used to create meaning clearly, communicate with the reader appropriately, and organize a message effectively (Halliday, 1994, p. xiii).
- Dozens of exercises provide practice in understanding, analyzing, and most importantly, using the grammar in practical written contexts.
- Examples and exercises are drawn from corpora,² published research, and student samples.
- Vocabulary building is integrated in the grammar presentations and practice activities; the companion website offers vocabulary lists and quizzes.
- Students are encouraged to investigate the language choices that are typical of their own academic disciplines or professional fields through structured reading and writing activities.
- The last two units go beyond the scope of traditional grammar books: Unit 7 teaches how to use corpora to find and use collocations, and Unit 8 presents the grammatical resources used to organize information beyond the sentence level.

Grammar Choices does not attempt to cover all the possible grammar choices in English—that would be a much longer book! The selection of structures is deliberately limited to those that are most useful to graduate and research writers, according to analysis of actual academic

²Throughout the book, I use the North American terminology of corpora (which refers to degrees and graduate (master's and doctoral) degrees by other countries, graduate students are called postgraduates, MBA stands for Master of Business Administration).

³A corpus (plural: corpora) is a large collection of digital texts that can be considered representative of a particular type of language. *Grammar Choices* primarily draws from two online corpora: the Michigan Corpus of Upper-level Student Papers (MICUSP), which reveals many of the choices that successful graduate students make in their writing, and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), which collects published academic writing and allows for comparisons between it and spoken English, journalism, and fiction.