

# How to answer (most) learner questions (about language)

Scott Thornbury

## Learners' questions

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- d. What's the difference between X and Y?***
- e. You said X but here it says Y.***

**Reflect...**

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**What tricky questions have YOU been asked?**

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**e. Throw it back to the student.**

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- e. You said X but here it says Y.***

**No ONE right answer!**

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**'Teachers and students ... need to know, if they don't know already, that grammar is not a linguistic straitjacket. It is much more flexible. There is rarely one right answer to a grammar question.'**

Diane Larsen-Freeman 2003. *Teaching language: from grammar to grammaring*. Thomson & Heinle, p. 18.

# Strategies

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- 5. Elicit context**
- 6. Encourage questions – don't fear them!**

**Any questions or suggestions?**

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