

In the Name of God

General Readings for General English

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Preface

Nowadays, English language is by far the most pervasive and important language in the world used by more than one and a half billion people for communication or various other purposes. In most academic curricula one compulsory segment is dedicated to English ranging from General English to English for Academic Purposes. Therefore, providing tools for implementing English courses is part of most educational programs. As language learning and teaching tools, books are of utmost importance. Teaching history has shown that books are the most readily available and user-friendly medium in any learning and teaching programs in general and language learning and teaching programs in particular. This was one of the impetuses behind the decision to publish the present book.

The Rationale of the Book

But why another book on General English? A cursory look at available English books in the market shows that it is full of General English books aimed at developing basic proficiency of university students. A brief evaluation of these books, however, indicates that most of them suffer from a 'publish or perish' syndrome. Of course, this statement doesn't mean to downgrade the published textbooks value as instructional aids in favor of the present book. The present book takes the issue more seriously by offering a more balanced diet of General English in conformity with the instructional objectives of universities. Including neither more complex nor commonplace topics, the book strives to be both educative and appealing to the instructors and pursuers of higher education alike.

Organization of the Book

Each unit of this book begins with new words of the reading passage; their pronunciation, parts of speech, definitions and examples of sample sentences in which they are used. Each title page includes a related picture to activate the relevant schemata related to the text content. The original reading passages are novel and stimulating making the readers get deeply involved in the process of reading. In this way, they are hoped to get the most out of the reading passages and improve their general information as well as language knowledge. The texts have been organized from easy to complex both in terms of their readability and length. The new and less frequent words are highlighted and their meanings are provided in Vocabulary Preview

section. The book enjoys a host of various exercises targeted at raising reading comprehension ability of the readers. They are also aimed at recycling the potentially unfamiliar words the students have already visited in the text. At the end of each unit, some *basic* grammatical points are given. These grammatical points avoid going to any great sophistication. As the word 'basic' suggests here, they are those fundamental grammatical structures required to manipulate daily and frequent language communication encounters. The Grammar Stop section is accompanied with some original exercises to provide the students with the chance of practicing and internalizing the grammatical points. At the back of the book, two appendices can be found that give coverage to the most frequent prefixes, suffixes, and Latin plus Greek roots in addition to the irregular verbs and their realizations in different tenses.

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