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High Frequency Academic Words

Essential for Reading Academic Texts and Taking IELTS, TOEFL, and
University Entrance Exams

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Preface

The present book aims at helping Iranian students learn the most frequent 570 English words which are essential for understanding academic texts and articles, as well as preparing for standardized tests such as IELTS, TOEFL, and university entrance exams.

The words in this book are based on the findings of a study conducted by Averil Coxhead (2000), entitled Academic Word List (AWL). In order to collect the most frequent academic words, Coxhead used a large sample of journal articles, book chapters, course workbooks, and other sources in twenty-eight different subject areas, consisting of 3.5 million running words. He determined 570 word families and divided them into 10 sub-lists based on their frequency of occurrence. Though invaluable, the outcome of Coxhead's study is merely a list of high frequency words and not a textbook to help EFL learners improve their English vocabulary. To address this shortcoming, the authors of the present book have made a deliberate attempt to convert Coxhead's Academic Word List into a practical book in order to facilitate the learning and use of these essential English words. To this end, the 570 word families are divided into 38 units, each consisting of 15 words, which are organized based on their frequency of occurrence. For each word, the standard phonetic transcription, Persian equivalent(s), synonyms, and antonyms, if any, are provided. In order to facilitate the learning and consolidation of the words in the mind, each word is accompanied by a picture, except for words with abstract meaning or those for which the picture could potentially be a source of confusion or misunderstanding. The visual memory can then be significantly helpful in memorizing and recalling the words. The parts of speech for each word along with their Persian translations are presented to help learners familiarize themselves with different forms of the target word. Also, an example sentence containing the main word and its Persian equivalent is provided.

At the end of the units, a complete list of all words incorporating the 10 sub-lists is included, which makes access to different forms of the word families and the most frequent words in each family possible. British and American spelling differences, common prefixes and suffixes, as well as the list of frequently-used collocations, which may be found in different types of texts, are provided at the end of the book as appendices.

We hope that the present book, with all its shortcomings, will be well embraced by language learners and university students.

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and
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