

Semi-specialized English

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Preface

In the Name of God

Any reading comprehension textbook must have some features to achieve its purpose. First, the authors should know who the users of the book are. In other words, the authors should have the prospective users in mind when preparing a book. Second, the materials should be interesting enough to satisfy the users' taste. Third, the textbook must be of an appropriate level of difficulty to appropriately induce an interactive mode of reading behavior and make readers challenge the materials. Fourth, a successful textbook should strike a balance between the two poles of bottom-up and top-down reading approaches so that it will enable the reader to enjoy the content of the text and at the same time make them attentive to various ways the messages are encoded. Finally, a good textbook must contain a variety of exercises to provide an opportunity for the reader to consolidate what he/she has read. With all these features in mind, the faculty members of English Language Department at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences have prepared the present semi-specialized reading comprehension textbook for the students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy.

This book is the second book of the reading comprehension series which intends to provide semi-specialized texts with more academic and technical vocabulary and scientific structures for this specific group of students. Of course, the reading comprehension skills taught and practiced in the first book, *Improving Reading Skills* authored by Dr N Shokrpour and Dr A Mahbudi, are further practiced and consolidated.

It is natural that the present book may suffer some shortcomings. The authors accept the responsibility for all drawbacks and warmly welcome any suggestions for the betterment of the book in the future editions.

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