

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Reading and Speaking for General English

Dr. Ali Asghar Rostami Abusaidi

Assoc. Prof. Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman

Ebrahim Golavar

MA in Translation Studies
Islamic Azad University, Bandar Anzali Branch,
Young Researchers' Club

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Preface

Reading and Speaking for General English is a book on reading and speaking skills for students of English as a Second Language (ESL). This book is intended to provide sufficient vocabulary, most frequent structures, and also some technical definitions related to students' majors. Through a systematic approach to integrating reading with discussion sections, this book helps students understand readings and improve their speaking ability.

The organization of the book is based on its units, each of which begins with Before You Read questions, moving to a reading, vocabulary exercises, comprehension questions, discussion, tips for reading, and also some exercises, all of which are helpful in having an effective reading and successful speaking.

It is impossible to outline one best way to use this book, since there are as many ways to do so as there are creative teachers and students. The ultimate goal of **Reading and Speaking for General English** is to train independent readers and speakers who are able to set their own goals for reading and speaking tasks and then use the appropriate structures and vocabularies to reach them. For such goals, this book includes some exercises that give students practice in both reading and speaking skills. It is recommended to do the exercises in the order in which they are presented. In fact, instructors are encouraged to:

- a) provide a thorough introduction of each unit in English;
- b) help the students answer the discussion questions orally and elaborate their ideas;
- c) explain the required reading skills and strategies related to each exercise; and
- d) clarify any grammatical structures or vocabulary with relevant examples.

It is hoped that the readings in these book encourage the students' interest to read more and understand English texts more easily, and help them express their ideas as well, which improves their speaking ability. Throughout the semester, as the students become more proficient, they are expected to determine for themselves what they have read, why and how they have read it, and how well they can discuss about it in English. It is also hoped that this book would supply, students and instructors alike, with the appropriate materials used for reading and speaking. Finally, the readers' suggestions and comments will be heartily welcomed and utilized.