

Reading & Vocabulary Development

READ MORE

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Introduction

Welcome to Read More. Read More is an intermediate-level book in English as a second or foreign language. It can serve as a textbook for the general English courses taught in most Iranian colleges. It is designed to meet the needs of the intermediate-level student in vocabulary, reading and listening comprehension through written exercises, enjoyable readings, and recorded materials. The language used in this book is realistic and practical, and the vocabulary and readings in each of its fifteen lessons offer a context that will be recognizable and relevant to most intermediate-level students of English.

The readings were chosen from the results of a recent survey conducted by the author. It surveyed more than 500 students of 3 different colleges to determine the high interest topics to be studied and discussed in a general English course for college students. According to this study 73% of students were very interested in topics about other countries, interesting places to visit, and tourist attractions in the world.

The book is divided into fifteen lessons covering a range of topics mostly focusing on interesting places in the world. Each lesson offers the essential vocabulary related to its topic, as well as useful words and expressions that are typically challenging to the intermediate-level student. Each lesson has both intensive and extensive reading components. The readings are mostly excerpted from the Encarta Kids Encyclopedia 2009.

Lessons 1 – 5 focus on Europe: Italy, France, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, Norway, and Great Britain. Lessons 6 – 10 focus on USA: Nevada, Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, Hawaii, Yellowstone National Park, and Disneyland. Lessons 11 – 15 discuss: Canada, Australia, Russia, China, and India. The last part of the book includes a short review of high-school-level grammar rules.

All the intensive and extensive reading sections and exercises are recorded audio files in the MP3 CD using native American-English speakers. They have specifically read these texts in both slow and normal speed with hesitations in order for university students to fully understand the readings and be able to follow the spoken form of words and get acquainted with the exact pronunciations of words and sentences.

The intensive reading lessons focus on building language awareness and comprehension. They often involve relatively challenging texts for students encountering some unfamiliar language. The first reading in each lesson focuses on intensive reading.

Extensive reading focus on fluency development and reading for pleasure. The book's two key principles are: (1) students should read as much as possible, and (2) texts should be easy and well within the students' linguistic competence. Easy texts mean that students are able to read more and faster, and this kind of practice helps students in many ways: improved reading and writing skills, increased vocabulary knowledge, and improved listening skills. The "Read More" section at the end of each lesson provides students with an opportunity to experience this approach.

It was a great experience to work with some nice people through the process of completing this book. I hope you enjoy reading and teaching it as much as we did preparing it. I would be glad to receive your comments and ideas about this book. My email is: s.m.saadatmand@gmail.com

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