



# Learning English "Step by Step"

N. Akbarnetaaj

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## Learning English "Step by Step"

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## Preface

Teaching English for nearly twenty years has given me quite enough experience to be a mediator between English language and Iranian university students learning English as a foreign language, and especially those who study English as EAP, ESP, Basic, or General English courses. I have used most, if not all, available English text books in my classes in these long years and have concluded that a few of them seem to be written for the students in the vacuum, although most of them are still rich and useful. As a result, I have organized my thoughts and started to change them into print to help the beginners and also the low intermediate students make sense of the basic concepts in English. The concepts that the students are really too overwhelmed by feelings of despair to understand and to analyze them in next stages because the more they try, the less result they get. To make the task easy for such students, this book has been prepared, though it is never claimed to be thorough and complete. Consequently, any recommendations, corrections, or suggestions by the teachers and colleagues are warmly accepted and appreciated.

### The organization of the book

This book is organized into 13 units and each unit consists of the warm-up discussion, a short passage, and the related activities and exercises.

The warm-up discussion in each unit includes a set of pre-reading questions under each picture constructed – the first question in particular, “what do you think is going on in the picture?” – based on TAT( Thematic Apperception Tests ) to see what is going on in the students' mind by looking at the picture(s). Here, the students are totally free to express themselves easily( possibly in English, if not, in their native language). The advantage of this particular question and the students' free and simultaneous comments is that the language learners are, then, curious enough to stop and check their own concepts with that of the real one while reading the passage.

The passage in each unit was carefully prepared to match with the structure discussed in grammatical points. It has been tried to consider a logic behind each reading passage and also to teach the students a lesson in life in addition to English grammar, reading comprehension skills, vocabulary, etc.

Through activities and exercises, students develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar while improving their reading and sometimes oral skills.

The grammatical points, the related comments and exercises have been planned to give the students a new insight towards grammar and to make the assessment easy and manageable.

Since proverbs, idioms, and idiomatic expressions cannot be separated from the main body of any languages in general and English language in particular, each unit is ended with a few proverbs or idiomatic expressions. This part has been included for the students both to enjoy and to learn the shared beliefs and cultural aspects of the two languages – English and Persian.

*The author*

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