In his name, the omniscient, the omnipotent

General English Texts

For

University Students

Author:
Nasser Soltani, M.A.
(Instructor at Germi Applied-Scientific Center)

ب شناسه سلطانی، ناصر، ۱۳۵۴-

General English Texts for University Students/ authors Nasser Soltani. : عنوان و نام پدیدآور

> : اردبیل: نشر نایاب، ۱۳۹۴=۲۰۱۵م. مشخصات نشر

> > مشخصات ظاهري : ۱۴۷ ص.

شابک

, L, 17 - . . . 9 V A - 8 - . A . F F - . D - 2 :

وضعيت فهرست نويسي : فييا

: انگلیسی، بادداشت : چاپ دوم بادداشت

: جنرال انگلیش... آوانويسي عنوان

: زبان انگلیسی -- کتاب های قرائت (دانشگاهی) موضوع

: زبان انگلیسی-راهنمای آموزشی (عالی)

PE1177/ 7979 1898 :

رده بندی دیویی

رده بندی کره

شماره کتابشناسی ملی



انگلیسی دمومی برای دانشجویان مؤلف: نام الما لماني

ویراستار علمی و ادبی: طیبه زمی تاز، کند، مهناز سلطانی

ناشر: انتشارات نایاب

طراح روی جلد: حسین آقازاد

صفحه آرایی: مینا معرفت اجرلو

نوبت چاپ: اوّل - ۱۳۹۴

لیتوگرافی: نقش و نگار

شمارگان: ۱۰۰۰

شانک: ۵-۵-۸۰۴۴-۸۰۴۴ ۹۷۸-۶۰۰ ISBN: 978-600-8044-05-5

قيمت: ١٢٠٠٠٠ ريال

صحافي: افق

حق چاپ و نشر محفوظ است.

Preface

In the insuring decade, a number of important developments have taken place in graduate education .E-mail and Internet have much more widely used, especially in distance education. But there is no frigate like a book.

If we were able to take wing and get a bird's eye view of English Language Teaching(ELT) in classrooms, study circles, workshops, lecture theatres, and open learning centers across the world .But behind the variation I believe we would be able to discern a number of persistent concerns in the professional practice of teachers. This is because teachers are decision-makers in managing processes and, whatever our educational setting, whatever its potential and its problems, our working lives are defined by the same issues. What do I set up as aims for my next lesson van the class and what kind of activities will help to achieve those ains? How do I balance its content in relation to what I see of my stude its needs for English in the world outside the classroom in reation to the examinations for which we are preparing? How do I deal with this reading text in class? What amount of out-of-class we can I reasonably expect my learners to do? How can I mativate my learners to be more active? How do I make best use of the xtbook I am not entirely happy with? What are my ultimate goals with this class? And can I usefully discuss and negotiate any of the ethings. These are just some examples. It is certainly my experience every year that teachers have the concerns, whateve, then background.

Students should be encouraged to read through the entire passage without stopping to look up unfamiliar words in a dictionary. They should be allowed to do the first reading at their own speed, no matter how slow that speed may be. (Note: As students' progress through the book and increase their knowledge of English vocabulary and structure, their reading speed naturally increases. The most important point in the first reading is to keep the anxiety level as low as possible. After the students have read through the passage once for the main ideas, they should go back and read the passage a second time. Then, they can work with a partner to look up words in a dictionary. Students should be allowed to use bilingual dictionaries if they wish.

Finally, the students should read over the passage a third time to consolidate the conceptual and linguistic information from the first two readings and to integrate new words into their contexts. This third reading can gradually be developed into a skimming activity, but we caution teachers not to emphasize speed until the students are ready for this challenge. (Note: Some students will be ready sooner than others. If it is possible, these individual differences should be noted and accommodated). As students work their way through each unit, they are able to feel the joy and power that come from learning a new language and making it their own. Their rapid progress motivates them to continue their language learning efforts on their own.

Nasser Soltani, M.A. (Nasser Soltani, M.A.)

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