

Learning English Through Short Clips

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دکتر رضا مرادیان

پیشا عزیز

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حق چاپ برای ناشر محفوظ است. کلیه حقوق و حق چاپ متن، طرح روی جلد و عنوان کتاب با تکرش به قانون حمایت مؤلفان، مصنفان و هنرمندان مصوب ۱۳۳۸ برای انتشارات آراد کتاب محفوظ است و متخلفین تحت پیگرد قانونی قرار می‌گیرند.

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Introduction

The book *Learning English through Short Clips* aims to develop listening skills in English learners via short authentic audio-visual clips covering a variety of topics taken from famous encyclopedias and websites whose difficult words and expressions were given using well-known dictionaries. It includes twenty-five lessons. The core of each lesson is a text whose clip appears on a compact disc, CD, accompanying the book. A clip is a short film lasting for 1 to 5 minutes whose textual script appears in each lesson. After listening to each script, listeners are required to answer the listening comprehension questions following the script. The difficult words in the text script of each lesson are presented after each lesson in the form of a *Vocabulary List*. Each difficult word appears in the form of a boldfaced entry plus its pronunciation, part of speech, definition, synonym, Persian equivalent, and a sentence or more to exemplify its meaning. There are also exercises following each script to reinforce the linguistic information and schematic content of the lessons. The exercises deal with grammar and lexicon. The difficult words are tested in the form of multiple-choice test items, filling-in-the-blank, and matching exercises. At the end of each lesson, there is a section called *Did You Know...?* This part explains in brief the concepts and expressions existing in each script whose purpose is to provide further background information for the listeners to understand the script better. Naturally, English learners' dictionaries do not usually provide

information regarding such concepts and expressions. For example, a brief explanation of the expression *The Indian Independent Movement* is provided at the end of Lesson One. In Lesson Two, the expressions *piki*, *hopi*, and *black mesa* are described to provide listeners with more information so that the understanding of the passage is enhanced. One of the major advantages of the book is that each script begins with a picture which is intended to depict the content of the text and establish or activate the listeners' visual memory. There are also small pictures throughout the book to follow the same end. The other advantage is that there is a Review Section after every five lessons dealing with grammar and lexicon present in the lessons. However, the book is not the only one of its type; instead, it is unique in the Iranian market since, as far as we know, there is no such a book available here in Iran to deal with listening audio-visually. It is also comprehensive in that it tries its best to analyze the script in terms of lexicon, grammar, and background content. No doubt this book would bear shortcomings because it was the authors' first experience in writing such a necessary book in the Iranian EFL context. The authors, therefore, take the responsibility for its shortcomings which can be removed with the future comments which the dear listeners and readers of the book will give us. Last but not least, we are much grateful to Mr. Rezaei, the Head of the Arad Publication, without whose warm cooperation and professional assistance, this book would not have been published.

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