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IN THE NAME OF GOD

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# A COURSE IN GENERAL ENGLISH:

From A to Z

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«حق چاپ برای مؤلفان محفوظ است»

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## Introduction

The present book has been compiled to bring students from the low intermediate level of proficiency in English to the intermediate level. The book has been intended to be taught as a course in general English for university students. Of course, university students cannot be a homogeneous group since some had already taken English classes before graduating from high school and others might not have taken English classes because English classes were not available, or the students were not eager to take any. However, we think that the book can be of great help to university students in general.

This book can help students achieve their goals by learning English. As university students, they are supposed to have a high level of proficiency in English for reading and analyzing textbooks and articles for different courses. They are also required to write articles in English and even publish them in technical journals as a part of their academic work. They might even surf the Internet to get the information which they need in English.

The students are also required to take English tests as a part of MA or PhD entrance exams. Different activities in this book – learning vocabulary, answering reading comprehension questions, and learning rules of grammar – can help students achieve this goal. In fact, being able to use English academically is a must. The interesting topics in this book can prepare the students to have a thorough mastery over academic English.

The authors have tried to include 15 very interesting up-to-date topics. Each unit is made up of the following sections:

### Vocabulary Review

This section tries to familiarize students with the correct pronunciation of words by providing the phonetic transcriptions of the new words. Then the definitions of the new words along with illustrative examples are presented. All the information here is taken from reliable dictionaries, so the information is authentic.

## Warm up

Before reading the passages, students are required to answer some questions. The questions are designed so as to intrigue the students – to test their general information on the subject matter and to whet their appetite for learning more about the topic.

## Reading Tasks

The text here caters the students with some absolutely necessary but interesting facts about the topic.

## Post-reading Tasks

This section is composed of the following sub-sections:

### (I) *Reading Comprehension*

Here some questions are posed for the students to make sure they have understood some details from the text.

### (II) *Vocabulary Practice*

Some multiple-choice items are asked so that students can recognize the meaning of the words.

### (III) *Vocabulary Activity*

Etymology or the history of the words is given here. The derivation of the words can make learning the meanings of the words more interesting. It can also help the definitions of the words stick in students' mind even long after they have read the text. If teachers have time and if students are eager to learn more, teachers can provide them with more fascinating examples.

### (IV) *Vocabulary Understanding*

In this section, students learn the synonyms for some new words. This can help the students to memorize the new words and expressions. Needless to say that teachers should advise students to use monolingual dictionaries to find out how new vocabulary should be correctly used in English sentences.

## **(V) Focus on Form**

Here some grammar rules are first defined. Then different forms such as questions and negative forms are offered. Where necessary, spelling rules are added. After that, some multiple-choice questions are included in order for the students to make sure they have understood the rules and can use them correctly.

## **(VI) Speaking Practice**

This section is especially useful if we want to help students practice their English. The writers assume that, by now, students have some general information on the topic and have learned the vocabulary and the grammar rules they need to express their ideas. The students should learn that their ideas are important and they are not supposed to regurgitate what others have already said.

## **(VII) Inspiring Quotes**

In this section, some quotations by famous people are given to make the topics presented in this book more interesting. A comparison between how we look at something and how others look or have looked can broaden our attitudes towards the same topic and therefore can provide us with invaluable insights.

It goes without saying that not all the chapters in this book can be covered in a single semester. Fifteen interesting topics are included so that teachers can choose what they find more suitable. The book can be utilized in different English courses. The teachers can prioritize the tasks that the students have to do. Accordingly, the teachers and students can spend more time on those tasks that they find more useful, and they might ignore other tasks that they find not particularly useful.

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