

English for Tourism and Hospitality

Review by J. Perry Christensen

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English for Tourism and Hospitality. Hans Mol. 2008, Garnet Publishing Ltd. pp. 132. ISBN 978 1 85964 942 8. Price: approximately \$35 (about 16 pounds British)

This book is part of Garnet's English for Specific Academic Purposes (ESAP series). Some other books in the series include: *English for Mechanical Engineering*, *English for Business Studies*, *English for Banking*, *English for Law*, and *English for Language and Linguistics*. Unlike other EAP books which are aimed for professionals already working in the field, this series prepares students for future academic studies within their chosen discipline, giving them the necessary vocabulary and academic skills.

English for Tourism and Hospitality contains 12 units composed of 4 lessons apiece. While each lesson is printed on only 2 pages, it contains about an hour's worth of classroom activities. Combined with the given additional activities there are between 50 and 80 hours of classroom material.

The 12 thematic units alternate between focusing on listening/speaking and reading/writing. Lesson 1 of each unit introduces relevant vocabulary. Lesson 2 concentrates on building listening or reading skills. Lesson 3 is an extension of lesson 2 and a preparation for lesson 4. Lesson 4 requires students to apply the new skills they have gained by doing either speaking or writing activities. At the end of each unit is a summary in the form of both a vocabulary and skills bank.

One's first impression by looking at the generous supply of graphics, illustrations, and workbook style format is that the book is for low level English learners. However, the text is targeted, and is most appropriate, for use at the upper intermediate and advanced levels. The pictures and charts actually play an integral part of the lesson, adding realia and building schemata.

The book comes with 2 free audio CDs for use with the listening components. The CD format is a plus, making it easier to import the lectures onto one of many popular MP3 devices. The tracks on the CD are generally between 1 and 2 minutes, with a handful extending over 5 minutes. A transcript of each recording is found in the appendix of each student book. This way, students can self check their lecture notes and make adjustments for future note taking.

The text has a nice international flavor, pointing out the subtleties between British and American English dialects. The lecturers on the audio CD also present a taste of British and American accents as well as male and female voices.

The accompanying teacher's manual is laid out in linear fashion giving teaching notes for each exercise followed by the answer key and transcripts. One doesn't have to flip from the notes section to the answer section to the transcript section as one does with many other teaching manuals. The teaching notes lay out step by step instructions and even suggest what to write on the board. It is an excellent guide for new teachers or a nice reference for more experienced instructors.

The drawback of this text is that it doesn't come with a test bank or assessment pack. In addition, the teacher's manual doesn't make specific suggestions for homework. It appears that all work should be done in class. Also, this book would not be used as a reading text. The readings are generally in a one page magazine format, double columned in a small font. Another shortcoming is that it appears not to provide sufficient material for the students to complete some of the exercises. For example, in a scheme building exercise, students are asked to match items in column A with items in column B. Without some explanation by the teacher about each item, it would be hard for the students to complete the exercise.

On the whole, the book seems to be most useful when used in class under the direction of a teacher as many of the exercises are pair work followed by class discussion. However, the biggest plus to this book is that the students are inundated with field specific vocabulary helping them to be ready for further academic study in tourism and hospitality.

About the Reviewer

Dr. J. Perry Christensen, who also holds an MBA, has been an ESL teacher for 20 years. He has taught in the Pacific Islands of Tonga and Samoa and currently teaches at Brigham Young University–Hawaii.