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## *Insights and Ideas*

Book Review by Johnny K. W. Mok

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INSIGHTS AND IDEAS. Patricia Ackert. New York: CBS College Publishing, 1982, pp. 219

*Insights and Ideas*, by Patricia Ackert, is a reader for low-intermediate students of English as a Second Language. The text is composed of twenty-five interesting readings aimed at increasing the students' vocabulary by 1000 words. It is designed to improve vocabulary and comprehension through exercises on prefixes and suffixes, using contextual clues, finding the main idea, drawing conclusions, and making inferences.

The text is designed for a daily one-hour ESL reading class over a fourteen week semester. The text assumes that the student has a 1,000 word vocabulary to begin with. Reading and exercises then increase this by another 1,000 words.

The twenty-five chapters include such high-interest topics as fast-food restaurants, country music, language and languages, deserts, Amnesty International, the United Nations, gold, and computers. The in-

structor's manual contains answers to all exercises, a quiz for each lesson, a mid-term and a final exam, and a list of new words and irregular verbs in each lesson. It is recommended that the lessons be covered in sequence because the vocabulary is introduced gradually and then used repeatedly in later lessons.

The most obvious merit of the text is the structured teaching of vocabulary to ESL students. Most lessons in the text have ten to fifteen new words that are used several times in subsequent readings. The students are encouraged to use their dictionaries only as a last resort.

Because of the high-interest topics and emphasis on vocabulary, *Insights and Ideas* should succeed in helping low-intermediate students gain a positive attitude toward their developing ability to read fluently in English.

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