
The New Oxford Picture Dictionary and Collins Picture Dictionary

Review by Melanie Donly, Brigham Young University

THE NEW OXFORD PICTURE DICTIONARY. E. C. Parnwell. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. pp. 124, \$5.75. Teacher's Manual \$3.95. Beginner's Workbook \$4.50. Intermediate Workbook \$4.50. Wall Charts: (A) pp. 2-41 \$69.95, (B) pp. 42-80 \$69.95, (C) pp. 81-103 \$39.95, (Complete set) pp. 2-103 \$149.95. Vocabulary Playing Cards \$4.95. Cassettes \$24.95.

COLLINS PICTURE DICTIONARY FOR YOUNG LEARNERS. Andrew Wright. London: Collins ELT, 1985. pp. 91. Activity Book. Cassette. £5.25.

The New Oxford Picture Dictionary is designed for students of any age and level studying ESL in the United States. Because the pictures are true to life, it is appropriate for the oldest as well as the youngest student. The Oxford dictionary can be used as a supplement in a multiskills classroom, or, if used with the available helps, as the text itself, providing coursework for two semesters on both the beginning and the intermediate levels. It is also appropriate for self-study and as a simple vocabulary reference. It presents over 2,400 words in 85 topical units ranging from basics such as food and clothing to more specific topics like the space program and occupations. Each unit contains a contextualized, numbered illustration with the words listed at the bottom of the page next to their numbers. Because the pictures aren't labeled with the words, it is very easy to use the pictures themselves for accurate testing. At the

back of the book there is an appendix and a pronunciation guide.

The *Collins Picture Dictionary for Young Learners* is designed for 7-11 year olds beginning ESL in a British English environment. Like the first dictionary, the Collins dictionary is also divided into topical units, (43 in all), and introduces just over 1000 words. A drawback however, is that the words are labeled right on the picture instead of at the bottom of the page, making the material less flexible than the Oxford set. The pictures are colorful and funny, and therefore very fitting for the intended age group. This dictionary also contains a pronunciation guide at the back as well as a guide for the parent or teacher on how to use the suggested activities to help the student. Children between the ages of seven and eleven would have a lot of fun using this text.

Although both of these dictionaries are useful, attractive tools for learning ESL, the *Collins Picture Dictionary for Young Learners* is geared more as a self-study tool for parent and child than as a classroom text. *The New Oxford Picture Dictionary* is extremely valuable both as a classroom text and as a self-study guide.

Melanie Donly is a student at Brigham Young University in Utah certifying to teach Spanish and ESL.