
Stories from American Business

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STORIES FROM AMERICAN BUSINESS. Patricia Costello. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1987. pp. 112. Paper \$7.25.

Stories From American Business is a lightweight, easy-to-read collection of American business success stories, touching on many fields in American culture.

It is an up-to-date, modern book divided into ten teaching sections. Each section tells the story of an American who has achieved success in his or her personal life. The stories relate to the reader the stimulus which promoted the success of each individual. Each story is also personalized with a picture of the person or persons involved. The narrative used includes idioms and vocabulary used in the field being discussed.

Each section, except the first, which is a dialogue type interview, begins with a narrative of the success story. This is followed by comprehension questions which are intended to be used for discussion of the field mentioned. These questions include WH-questions, descriptive questions, and memory recalling questions. It then provides three vocabulary exercises which build student repertoire in sentence writing, matching synonyms and actual meaningful commu-

nication. At the end of each section are suggestions for classroom activities, which include problem solving and role playing as well as questions about real life situations referred to in the story.

Each section is designed to take the student through reading comprehension activities, oral group discussion activities, vocabulary and written comprehension activities. Each activity directly involves the language highlighted in each section.

As a final expansion exercise for each section, the text includes a problem solving exercise which includes an idiom not used in the story but which is related to the field discussed.

The author of the text recommends it for the high-intermediate to advanced ESL classroom. It has been designed for the specific purpose of teaching business vocabulary and expressions. It could be used as a supplement in a class where the purpose is to introduce students to the use of business language and provide insights into what constitutes success in American culture. Knowledge of business language and practices would be an asset to any teacher using this text. It could be used to advantage by an outgoing creative teacher, as it adds human interest and stimulus to otherwise routine exercises.