

# BOOK REVIEW

Eugene J. Hall.

*English Self-Taught: A Multimedia Programmed Course in English as a Second Language.*

New York: Regents Publishing Company

Price \$ 3.95.

*English Self-Taught* (EST) boldly claims to teach a student how to "...speak, read, and write English without a teacher, without translation, and at his own pace." Twelve volumes, accompanied by correlated tape recordings, comprise the course. Each book contains six units, and each unit is divided into sections for conversation and dialog (to develop understanding and speaking skills), grammar and reading (to aid comprehension and writing skills), and a short mastery check. Each book also has a longer examination the students take before progressing to the next volume.

Mr. Hall has done an excellent job in providing the students with explicit instructions. In the conversation portion, students respond to the recordings of tasks printed with illustrations in colored boxes. For feedback, the students then look at matching colored boxes to the side which contain the completed versions of the tasks.

The answer boxes must be covered with a mask before checking. Dialogs are done in comic-strip format which I think the students will like. Grammar exercises are usually fill-in or multiple choice items with numerous examples. The readings (in the earlier stages) are descriptions of illustrations contained in the students' books followed by comprehension questions.

I like the numerous exercises contained in EST. They involve the students, so there will be no "sitting in the back of the classroom." On the other hand, poorly motivated learners will gain little from this self-instructional approach. It's too easy to look at the answer boxes before thinking the problems through. And while EST contains some pronunciation help, all self-teaching materials usually fail to provide the assistance needed to correct pronunciation errors students don't perceive.

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