

BOOK REVIEW

Patricia E. Matthews and Sabattat Tura, *Practice, Plan and Write: Guided Composition for Students of English, 1, 2*. American Book Company. 1973 paperback. \$1.92

The purpose of Matthews and Tura's new text, *Practice, Plan and Write*, is to give students of English as a second language a controlled guide to composition. Each of the sixteen units of Books 1 and 2 are divided into four major parts, including 1) a Model Paragraph, which the students repeat aloud after the instructor, and which introduces new grammatical structures for the students to practice and base their writing upon; 2) Language Practice, which presents basic sentence patterns that accustom the students to acceptable grammar and syntax; 3) Form and Organization, which includes tips on good paragraph writing as well as rules for punctuation and capitalization; and 4) the Unit Writing Assignments, which are patterned after the Model Paragraph at the beginning of the unit. The books are designed for more advanced students, "who have acquired oral control of the most basic grammatical patterns and the vocabulary of English," but unless students have also had a good deal of experience in reading and writing English, they may have trouble with the material.

The basic idea behind the text is that once students have become familiar with the rudimentary and repeating patterns of the English language, they can substitute

words and phrases into those patterns and thus generate their own sentences. Units consistently capitalize on this idea and the patterns become more complex as the units progress. Sentences illustrating new formulas are boxed off in phrases, allowing the student to see the similarities of the substitutions. The exercises then challenge the student to substitute correct word forms in sentences. Paragraph assignments throughout the books encourage the student to pattern his writing after the Model Paragraphs. It is a carefully controlled approach which allows the student little freedom in experimentation or creating. But it is also a successful approach, and the positive reinforcement for the student as he works so much with the proper forms of the languages is invaluable.

Practice, Plan and Write is a well thought out and very practical text that presents a lot of English language patterns very simply, and reinforces them with examples and exercises that will lead any diligent student to greater skill with the language.

Steven Goldsberry