

Listening Power 2

Review by Ryan Lege

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Listening Power 2. David Bohlke and Bruce Rogers. Pearson Longman. 2011. Student book with audio and classroom audio. ISBN 978-0-13-262651-4. \$37.00. Classroom audio CD. ISBN 978-0-13-231543-2. \$45.50 Teacher's pack. ISBN 978-0-13-611426-0. \$12.95

Listening Power 2 is part of a three-part series. The additional members of the series, *Listening Power 1* and *Listening Power 3*, are written for high-beginners and advanced learners respectively.

Listening Power 2 is targeted towards intermediate level learners seeking to establish a foundation of good listening skills necessary for classroom, social, and workplace interaction. The content and the way in which it is presented are oriented towards older teen and adult learners. The text contains a great deal of material selected from a variety of topic areas suitable for learners in this age range. *Listening Power 2* could be used in both EFL and ESL contexts. The text is designed for use in a classroom setting wherein both a teacher and peers are available for collaborative learning. Nonetheless, students could easily use the included CD and work through exercises at their own pace. The authors intend for the book to be completed over the course of a semester.

Listening Power 2 eschews a traditional linear format, instead dividing listening into four different units: Language Focus, Comprehension Focus, Note Taking Skills, and Listening for Pleasure. The authors recommend that all four units be used concurrently when working through the text. Each unit of the text successfully introduces a variety of tasks while staying focused on the goals of the unit. Speaking, reading, writing, and grammar are integrated into each unit. *Listening Power 2* follows principles of good lesson design in that exercises move from controlled to more loosely structured practice.

The audio CDs are organized and easy to use due to an informational booklet that includes the title, page number, and a brief description of each CD track. The audio on the CDs is very clear and well narrated. There are multiple male and female voice actors who articulate the script very well. Though the audio is not authentic, each listening is carefully designed with a specific goal in mind, an achievement difficult with authentic audio.

Visually the text is well designed and content is easy to follow. Its non-linear format allows teachers and administrators to organize syllabi and curriculum in a manner tailored to the needs of their students and program.

About the Author

Ryan Lege (BA TESOL, TESOL Certificate) has diverse experience within the field of TESOL. He has taught ESL and EFL in a range of places over the last four years, including Hawaii, Japan, Cambodia, and, currently, Utah. He is completing an MA in TESOL at Brigham Young University. His interests include teaching pronunciation, speaking, and reading.