

Grammar and Beyond

Review by Rick Nelson

Brigham Young University–Hawaii, Hawaii, U.S.A.

Grammar and Beyond, Level 1, Student's Book. Randi Reppen. 2012.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521142939. \$43.75.

Grammar and Beyond, Level 1, Student's Book, Workbook, and Writing Skills Inter-

active. Randi Reppen, Kerry S. Vrabel, Neta Simpkins Cahill, Hilary Hodge, Elizabeth Iannotti, Robyn Brinks Lockwood, Kathryn O'Dell, and Susan Hills.

2012. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9781139123044. \$62.50.

(These three components may be purchased separately.)

Grammar and Beyond, Level 1, Class Audio CD. 2012. Cambridge: Cambridge

University Press. ISBN: 9780521143301. \$31.25

Grammar and Beyond, Level 1, Teacher Support Resource Book with CD-ROM.

Paul Carne, Jenni Currie Santamaria, and Lisa Varandani. 2012. Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9781107694316. \$31.25.

Grammar and Beyond is a four-text series for ESL students at the following levels:

	Description	TOEFL IBT	CEFF Levels
Level 1	Beginning	20–34	A1–A2
Level 2	Low intermediate to intermediate	35–54	A2–B1
Level 3	High intermediate	55–74	B1–B2
Level 4	Advanced	75–95	B2–C1

This series includes four student texts with accompanying CDs, a teacher resource book with a CD containing PowerPoint presentations and unit tests, and a

numerical key to access unit-by-unit teaching helps online. *Grammar and Beyond* could also serve as an excellent base text for grammar and writing courses.

The series presents a theory-to-practice approach with exercises that lead to writing assignments. Using the *Cambridge International Corpus* as an informing source, the authors have prepared lessons that are research based, that identify language features that reflect actual North American usage, that focus on structures used more frequently, that employ vocabulary drawn from the *Academic Word List*, and that note the differences between spoken and written English. The student texts include a section of common student errors, with data drawn from the *Cambridge Learner Corpus*, a database that includes student exam essays written by English language learners. Also included is a workbook with exercises that can be completed in class or as homework. Teachers and students will find each lesson fresh, direct, clear, and carefully sequenced, with familiar grammar topics and no instructional gimmickry.

The texts are graphically beautiful, well researched, well organized, and complete. Their completeness makes them suitable for both classroom and individual study. In their completeness, however, the texts are also *big* (each Student's Book is almost 400 pages). Students may tire of carrying such big books. Similarly, the volume of material presented may make each text a good choice for a long course (perhaps many months or a year) but not for a shorter course. The cost of each text is not inordinately high, especially in light of the amount of material that is included, but where per-copy cost is an important consideration, program directors and teachers may wish to consider a simpler, less all-inclusive series. Still, the authors and the publisher have "done their homework" to produce a unified series that deserves a high recommendation.

About the Reviewer

Rick Nelson is an assistant professor in the Department of English Language Teaching and Learning at BYU–Hawaii and teaches writing and grammar courses to ESL and TESOL students.