

**English  
Conversation  
Practice**

*Grant Taylor*

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# **English Conversation Practice**

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## **ENGLISH CONVERSATION PRACTICE**

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# Preface

*English Conversation Practice* is a textbook intended to be useful for oral practice in English either in the classroom or in the language laboratory. The text is planned for use with adult students who have completed at least a beginning course in English.

In this text, oral class or laboratory work is initiated through four-line conversations, and further practice, in exercise form, is derived from or allied with the conversations. The text is divided into two main parts: the conversations in Part 1 are based on common daily situations such as shopping for groceries, asking the time, expressing thanks, etc.; those in Part 2 emphasize particular structural or lexical features of the language such as irregular verbs, tag questions, final prepositions, noun clauses, etc.

The exercises for the situational conversations in Part 1 are based on key sentences from the conversations. At the beginning of each exercise, the line (or lines) in the conversations from which the key sentence was taken is noted. For pedagogical purposes, in a few instances the key sentence for an exercise has been changed to a slightly different form from that of the sentence referred to in a particular conversation. The structure and word study exercises in Part 2 are based on the structural or lexical feature emphasized in the conversations and are not necessarily derived from particular conversational sentences.

All the exercises in *English Conversation Practice* are designed in programmed fashion: all cue words or cue sentences are presented at the left of the page and the expected responses or "answers" are given at the right. Although in strict oral procedures students will not usually refer to the text, they can, if so desired (as homework, for example), cover the right column with a strip of paper and slide the paper down, revealing each expected response after having previously made the response orally.

The situational conversations in Part 1 of the text do not have a fixed sequence. Some effort was made to put the more immediately useful and simpler conversations at the beginning of Part 1 and to space out evenly conversational groups with and without exercises;

however, the general order is only one of many possible arrangements, and it is expected that most teachers will select situational conversations in an order appropriate to their own classrooms or laboratories.

The coverage of structural and lexical features in Part 2 of the text is not comprehensive; rather it deals mainly with those aspects of the English language with which intermediate and advanced students most often have difficulty. The structural topics in Part 2 progress from those aspects of the language generally considered easy to those generally considered more difficult, and in many instances there are logical sequences of three or more topics. Again, however, there is no fixed sequence, and the teacher may wish to select topics in a somewhat different order.

Although, by grouping, the conversations in Part 2 illustrate structural or lexical items, many of the conversations can also be used for situational practice. In this connection, the Index for *English Conversation Practice* lists not only the main sections which deal with a specific situation ("Shopping" for example) but also the additional single conversations which pertain to that situation. By the same token, some of the situational conversations in Part 1 also emphasize structural points, and again, these single conversations are cross-listed in the Index.

Throughout Part 2 of the text, the symbols (?) and (??) have been used to indicate that the cue is a repetition of a preceding question supplied by the student. The single question mark indicates that the teacher is to repeat (correctly, of course) an immediately preceding simple question made by the student; the double question marks indicate the repetition of an interrogative question.

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*Part 1:*

# **Situational Conversations**



