

FOCUS ON ENGLISH

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PAN PACIFIC BOOK DISTRIBUTORS (S) PTE LTD
Apt B1k 144 Viking Road #01-91 Singapore 0315
in association with
MANHATTAN PRESS (S) PTE LTD

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First Published 1978

Reprinted 1978

Reprinted 1979

Reprinted 1980

Reprinted 1985

Reprinted 1986

Introductory Notes

This book is the second in a series of four books written specially for secondary schools. Many special features, especially new international trends in the teaching of English, have been incorporated in the book to make it lively and stimulating to both the teacher and his pupils.

This book consists of twenty Teaching Units and four end-of-term Test Units. Each Teaching Unit is divided into:

- **Comprehension**

- Language**

- A Revision**

- B Aspects of Grammar**

- C Tenses**

- D Structural Pattern**

- Practical English**

- Speech Practice**

- Composition**

Comprehension

The passages in this book have been very carefully written, selected and adapted from books, magazines, and newspapers for their variety and interest. Many of these passages have a Singapore or Asean background to foster greater interest in and understanding of the pupil's local environment and his neighbours.

Word study at the end of the passages involves vocabulary in context. The emphasis is on the meaning of words as used in the passages and usage of the words in other contexts. The study of idiomatic and figurative expressions is also included.

Language

A non-formal approach has been adopted wherever and whenever possible. Essential language items must undeniably be taught in order to develop writing skills. But the emphasis is always on functional grammar rather than traditional.

Practical English

This section aims at developing communicative and social competence. Besides, it provides supplementary materials for developing proficiency in English.

Composition

The aims of this section are to teach the basis of organized writing as well as to make composition writing a pleasure. As much guidance as possible is given to the pupil without sacrificing originality in thought and expression. Generally, composition topics are related to the comprehension passages and language items.

Speech Practice

This section completes the introduction to phonetics developed in Book One, besides introducing new items like stress, spelling, pronunciation and link-up.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publisher wishes to thank the following for permission to reproduce or adapt passages from their publications: An extract from *Photoanalysis* by Dr Robert U Akeret (Peter H Wyden Inc); *Dolphins* by Anthony Alpers (Messrs J Murray); *Discovering Science: Electricity* by D H Baratt (E J Arnold & Son); *The Man and the Snake* by Ambrose Bierce from *Great Short Stories of the World* (Hamlyn Publishing Group); *The Hasty Act* by Marc Brandel; *Fortune Telling* by Douglas Hill (Hamlyn Publishing Group); *Your Spare Tyre can Prevent A Drowning* by Sue M Gerard (The Reader's Digest Association); *The Fall of Singapore* by Frank Owen (Michael Joseph); *Communication for Business and Secretarial Students* by L A Wolcott & W R Unwin (Macmillan Press); *Reuters* (Reuters); *Social Work as a Career* from a pamphlet published by the Singapore Association of Social Workers; *Fish Talk, Floods as Sumatra Hits Singapore, PUB Fisheries at Reservoir* from *The Straits Times*; A review of *Harriet Beecher Stowe* by Noel B Gerson (Times); *Street Wayangs in Singapore* from *Singapore This Week* (Times Periodicals).

The publisher also wishes to thank the following for permission to reproduce pictures and photographs on the pages mentioned: Singapore Association of Social Workers, 75; Walt Disney Productions, 236

However, there have been a few unknown sources and we welcome any assistance to trace them so that proper acknowledgements could be made.

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2	14	The Faces of Courage	Contractions Compound Adjectives Questions/Negatives in Present Tense Verb + bare/to-infinitive
3	28	Friends at Sea	Possessive Case, Punctuation Inversion after Negative and Restrictive Adverbs Present Continuous Verb + Noun + Past Participle
4	42	Using the Telephone	His, hers, theirs Too/Enough + to-infinitive Simple Present, Present Continuous (Passive) Verb + Noun + Adjective/Noun
5	57	Treasure from the Earth	Prepositions Neither, nor, so Simple Present and Present Continuous (Revision) Adjective Phrase + -ing form
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UNIT	PAGE	COMPREHENSION	LANGUAGE
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8	89	An Easy Combination	Adjective + to-infinitive Verbs with no Progressive Tense (I) Past Continuous, Simple Past In spite of, despite
9	103	Floods as Sumatra Hits Singapore	Verb + to-infinitive Verbs with no Progressive Tense (II) Simple Past, Past Continuous (Passive) Since, because, for, as
10	117	The Man and the Snake	The Gerund Revision of Non-progressive Verbs Simple Past, Past Continuous (Revision) In order that, so that, that
11	133	The Amazing Harry Houdini	And, but Phrasal Verbs Present Perfect (Simple and Continuous) When, while, before, after, until, since, as soon as
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How to carry on a simple conversation at home	Consonants: /θ/, /t/	Linking of Paragraphs
How to carry on a conversation with business associates	Articles	The Concluding Paragraph
How to use the telephone to relay information	Conjunctions, Personal Pronouns, Prepositions	The Outline
How to use the telephone to make enquiries	Contrastive Stress	Expository Writing (I)
TEST I		

UNIT	PAGE	COMPREHENSION	LANGUAGE
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PRACTICAL ENGLISH	SPEECH PRACTICE	COMPOSITION
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TEST II		
A letter of application	Diphthongs: /iə /, /eə /	Argumentative Writing (I)

UNIT	PAGE	COMPREHENSION	LANGUAGE
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15	194	Standing Room Only?	Present Tense Such (a)..... that Past Tenses (Revision) Conditional Clause Type 3
16	211	Self-service and the Supermarket	Must, should, ought to, have to, need(s) Dare, need Past/Present Tense (Revision) Unless
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20	265	Fortune Telling	For, since May, might Future perfect If, whether, whether or not

PRACTICAL ENGLISH**SPEECH PRACTICE****COMPOSITION**

How to present
information in visual
forms

Diphthongs: /ei/, /ci/

Argumentative Writing (II)

Pictographs and Line
Graphs

Emphasis

Story Writing (I)

How to give directions

Diphthongs: /au/, /ou/

Story Writing (II)

How to give instructions

Commonly Confused
Words

Story Writing (III)

TEST III

Informal invitations

/tʃ/, /dʒ/

Imaginative Writing (I)

Formal invitations

Consonants: /g/, /k/

Imaginative Writing (II)

UNIT	PAGE	COMPREHENSION	LANGUAGE
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22	300	Street Wayangs in Singapore	Simple Past, Past Continuous Future Tense (Passive) General Revision
23	315	The Final Assault	Future Tense Revision
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PRACTICAL ENGLISH**SPEECH PRACTICE****COMPOSITION**

How to send telegrams

Link-up

Imaginative Writing (III)

Summarizing (I)

Consonants: /n/, /ŋ/

Imaginative Writing (IV)

Summarizing (II)

Final Consonants

Writing Techniques

TEST IV



The Frenchman's Stockings

There is a story of a Frenchman who was once undressing to go to bed. He wore two pairs of stockings: a black woollen pair covered by a white silk pair. He took off the white and black stockings from his right leg and held them
5 up. The stockings looked as though his legs were still in them, and as he held them they moved towards each other. When they touched, however, they went limp.

He took the white and black stockings off his other leg and held these up. The same thing happened. As he was
10 interested now, he put both pairs back on again. This time he took off both white stockings and held them up. Again they looked as though his legs were still in them, but this time they swung away from each other when he held them up. This made him wonder why a black stocking and a
15 white stocking swung towards each other, but two white ones swung away from each other.

Scientists have now found the reason for the strange behaviour of the Frenchman's stockings. An experiment will illustrate this.

20 Two balloons rubbed with woollen cloth swing away from each other, and so do two pieces of glass rod which have been rubbed with silk, but a rubbed balloon and a

piece of glass rod swing towards each other.

Why is this? When glass is rubbed, it loses electrons and
25 so becomes short of them. When a balloon or piece of
amber is rubbed, electrons are removed from the wool to
the balloon so that the balloon has too many electrons.

We say that the glass has a different charge from the
balloon, and so these charges have been given different
30 names. Two hundred years ago Benjamin Franklin, who was
an American scientist, called the electric charge in rubbed
glass a NEGATIVE charge. He called the electric charge in
amber or a balloon a POSITIVE charge.

We now know that unfortunately he got the names
35 the wrong way round. You must, therefore, be careful
to remember that something which is SHORT of electrons
has a POSITIVE charge and is marked with a + (plus) sign,
while something which has TOO MANY electrons has a
NEGATIVE charge and is marked with a - (minus) sign.

40 Things that have the same charge move away from each
other, but things with different charges move towards
each other. Could you now explain why the Frenchman's
stockings behaved in such a strange way?

Exercise 1

Answer these questions.

1. What did the Frenchman notice when he held up the white and the black stockings?
2. What did he notice when he held up the pair of white stockings?
3. How do scientists explain the strange behaviour of the stockings?
4. How would you explain the terms: positive charge and negative charge?
5. What did Benjamin Franklin have to do with electric charge?

Exercise 2

Choose the best answer.

1. The stockings went limp when
 - A he touched them.
 - B he put them down.
 - C they touched each other.
 - D they moved towards each other.