

A
Modern English Course
FOR
Foreign Students

An Intermediate Book

BY
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ILLUSTRATIONS BY P. J. WALFORD

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PREFACE

SOME years ago a well-known teacher of English wrote in a letter to the Educational Manager of Longmans :

“ . . . Twenty-five years' experience at Continental universities has shown me that what is still lacking is a short book, with illustrations, of things English, an English house, furniture, bills of fare, theatres, racecourse, football field, golf links ; typical English scenes (*not* Westminster Abbey, the British Museum, Tower Bridge), advertisements, school programmes, university life, clothing and all the common things of everyday life, shopping, post office, flying, motoring, sport ; briefly, everyday life in England. That is what is wanted badly on the Continent.”

It is hoped that this present volume will help towards supplying that want.

The student who knows no English at all can make a beginning with this book, but those students who have already a slight knowledge of English can telescope the first ten lessons into two or three and will then find, I think, material that is new to them.

The main emphasis of the book is on

conversational English, and for that reason much of the teaching is in the form of question and answer. For that reason, too, a series of conversations is included in which the ordinary affairs of life, housekeeping, football, buying a suit of clothes, tennis, a visit to the doctor, looking for "digs," etc., are given not in "literary" English but exactly in the colloquial language that would be used in informal talk. It is suggested that in these and the short plays the students should take the parts of the various characters, reading or performing them as naturally as possible.

Though the book is eminently suitable for use in schools it is intended primarily for adult students, and so the vocabulary is "grown-up" rather than childish. In the first few lessons the vocabulary has necessarily been drawn from the objects found in the classroom or admitting of easy demonstration, but after that an effort has been made to gain freshness by the use of the living vocabulary of everyday speech. So there is no mention of the "pen of my aunt," but motor bikes, wireless sets, lipstick and laddered stockings, cocktails and the Stock Exchange do figure in its pages. And though those old familiar friends the Tower, Westminster Abbey, and the British Museum do not appear, the reader is taken to the Derby, an Oxford College, Wimbledon, a Law Court; he has a glimpse of the Boat Race, a motor sale-room, and the "Cheshire Cheese"; he will learn how to make a telephone call, do a crossword puzzle, or order tea at a "Corner House," how to write a business letter, or get a good seat in the train; he will discover

the popular brands of cigarettes, and why English people send their sons to Eton.

There is still no royal road to learning, and this book does not pretend to teach English without effort—but it has tried to teach English without boredom.

C. E. E.

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A Modern English Course

THE SOUNDS IN ENGLISH

VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS

As the sounds in one language have usually no exact parallel in another no attempt has been made to give foreign "equivalents" for the English sounds.

VOWELS.			DIPHTHONGS.		
No.	<i>Phonetic Symbol.</i>	<i>Example.</i>	No.	<i>Phonetic Symbol.</i>	<i>Example.</i>
1.	i:	tree	13.	ei	late
2.	i	pin	14.	ou	go
3.	e	pen	15.	ai	my
4.	æ	man	16.	au	house
5.	ɑ:	father	17.	ɔi	boy
6.	ɔ	not	18.	iə	dear
7.	ɔ:	saw	19.	ɛə	air
8.	u	put	20.	ɔə	more
9.	u:	rude	21.	uə	poor
10.	ʌ	up			
11.	ə:	bird			
12.	ə	asleep			

CONSONANTS

UNVOICED.			VOICED.		
No.	Phonetic Symbol.	Example.	No.	Phonetic Symbol.	Example.
1.	p	paper	10.	b	boat
2.	t	town	11.	d	door
3.	k	cat	12.	g	go
4.	f	fat	13.	v	vine
5.	θ	thin	14.	ð	then
6.	s	sit	15.	z	zero
7.	ʃ	shut	16.	ʒ	measure
8.	tʃ	church	17.	dʒ	judge
9.	h	hot	18.	m	man
			19.	n	no
			20.	ŋ	sing
			21.	r	red
			22.	l	light
			23.	w	wine
			24.	j	yes

EXERCISES IN PRONUNCIATION

VOWELS

Vowel

No.

1. [i:] see, sheep, leave, seat, cheap, believe, ceiling, quay, key, machine, people.
2. [i] hit, ship, chip, live, build, deceive, believe.
3. [e] bed, hen, bread, breast, leopard, Leonard, any, many, Thames, says, friend, leisure, bury.
4. [æ] cap, hand, family, Saturday, imagine, examine.

Vowel
No.

5. [ɑ:] far, car, are, command, depart, can't, aunt, heart clerk, Derby.
6. [ɔ] box, clock, knowledge, watch, swan, want, was, quality, yacht, cauliflower, sausage, cough.
7. [ɔ:] all, dwarf, chalk, horse, fork, sword, cause, saucer, laundry, ought, George.
8. [u] full, pull, bull, bush, cushion, put, foot, woman, wolf, should, could.
9. [u:] boot, tooth, school, do, lose, two, flew, Jew, shoe, through, fruit.
10. [ʌ] cup, jug, come, Monday, wonder, London, onion, young, country, courage, southern, does, twopenny.
11. [ə:] herd, were, university, girl, skirt, word, world, colonel, church, fur, journey, courteous.
12. [ə] a, alive, above, Christmas, breakfast, the, father, butter, teacher, to-night, propose, memory, labour, honour, August, anxious.
13. [ei] gate, pail, rain, Cambridge, reign, eight, veil, great, break, gaol, jail, obey, champagne.
14. [ou] go, won't, boat, coat, brooch, though, dough, soul, follow, sew, mauve, Cologne.

Vowel
No.

15. [ai] child, life, Michael, Isaac, fly, reply, buy, height, either, tie, dye, eye, flight, guide, isle.
16. [au] mouse, flour, mouth, count, cow, towel, bough, plough.
17. [ɔi] noise, voice, oil, employ.
18. [iə] fear, year, idea, sincere, superior, hero.
19. [ɛə] care, prayer, chair, hair, there, wear, heir.
20. [ɔə] pour, four, store, wore, door, oar.
21. [uə] tour, your, sure, February, poor.

CONSONANTS

No. 6. [s] sour, so, scene, listen, university,
(*Unvoiced.*) handsome, miss, cups, maps, shops,
hats, puts, thinks, shuts, peace, voice,
Thomas.

No. 15. [z] crimson, clumsy, Wednesday, Thurs-
(*Voiced.*) day, Chinese, Japanese, as, is, was,
possess, desire, disease, observe,
present, resemble, result, buns, wines,
beds, knives, cabs, comes, sings,
loses, James, Charles.

Compare: loose, lose ; sink, zinc ; grace, graze ;
hiss, his ; advice, advise ; use (*n.*),
use (*v.*) ; excuse (*n.*), excuse (*v.*) ;
close (*adj.*), close (*v.*).

(*The first of each pair is unvoiced,
the second is voiced.*)

No. 5. [θ] **thank, theatre, thick, thief, thimble,**
(Unvoiced.) **thin, thing, through, thousand, three,**
throat, throne, thumb, Thursday,
health, mouth, strength, length, noth-
ing, everything, wealthy, author.

No. 14. [ð] **than, that, the, their, then, there,**
(Voiced.) **this, though, whether, smooth, with,**
father, mother, brother, farthing,
mouths, leather.

Compare: **bath, bathe; breath, breathe; mouth,**
mouths; north, northern; south,
southern; smith, smithy.

Repeat: **din, fin, tin, sin, thin; tank, sank,**
dank, thank; den, fen, ten, then;
fate, fade, face, faith; Fred, dread,
shred, tread, thread; fought, taught,
thought.

No. 13. [v] **vain, valley, value, velvet, verb, verse,**
view, village, live, invite, nephew,
Stephen.

No. 23. [w] **wage, wagon, walk, want, warm,**
water, Wednesday, white, wild,
winter, wolf, woman, wife, work.

Compare: **vine, wine; verse, worse; vary,**
wary; vent, went; veil, wail; vein,
wane; vest, west; vile, while.

No. 9. [h] **hair, half, hand, happy, head, health,**
hide, high, hold, hope, house, human,
hurry, behind, behave, inhabit, pro-
hibit, behold.

[h is not sounded in the following]
heir, heiress, honour, honest, hour.

No. 7. [ʃ] **shell, sharp, shoot, show, fish, passion, pension, fashion, patient, nation, ancient, sure, sugar, musician, machine.**

No. 8. [tʃ] **Charles, chance, cheek, cheese, each, arch, watch, touch, reach, coach.**

No. 17. [dʒ] **John, judge, bridge, hedge, edge, large, German, George, age, luggage.**

Compare: **ship, chip; sheep, cheap; washes, watches; share, chair; shop, chop; shoes, choose, Jews; shear, cheer, jeer; shin, chin, gin; Persia, perch, purge.**

No. 24. [j] **you, youth, year, your, yellow, cube, huge, cure, due, new, human, unite, student.**

No. 19. [n] **now, near, can, soon, men, mean, mine, town, own, done, ignorance.**

No. 20. [ŋ] **king, bring, thing, sing, singer, singing, sang, sung, ring, ringer, ringing, rang, rung, length, strength, ink, handkerchief.**

Compare: **sin, sing; thin, thing; sun, sung; ran, rang.**

[ŋ + g] **finger, anger, hunger, single, England, angle, angry, hungry, language, distinguish, singular, stronger, strongest, longer, longest, younger, youngest.**

Compare: **long, longer; strong, stronger; young, younger; singer, finger; ringer, anger.**

PART I
THE ELEMENTS OF THE LANGUAGE
EVERYDAY ENGLAND

FIRST LESSON

For the first seven lessons the pupils' books should be closed while the teacher gives the words, asks the questions, and illustrates by pointing, etc.

WHAT IS IT ?

It is (it's) a hand	a book
a head	a pencil
a face	a knee
a nose	a wrist
a university	[" u " here is a consonant sound]

" a " before a consonant sound.

It is (it's) an arm	an elbow
an ear	an ankle
an eye	an inkpot

" an " before a vowel sound.

WHAT COLOUR IS IT ?

It is red	yellow
blue	white
green	black

Question.

Answer.

What colour is the book ?	The book is red.
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