

Essential English

1

Students'
Book

for Foreign Students

New edition

C. E. ECKERSLEY

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

for
Foreign Students

BOOK ONE

by
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revised edition 1970 by

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Preface

Essential English is a course for the teaching of English to foreign students. It is intended principally for adults, although it can also be used with younger learners. After working thoroughly through the four books, of which this is the first, the student should have a sound mastery of the basic structures and sentence patterns of the language, a limited but very practical vocabulary, and a familiarity both with everyday colloquial speech and with more literary forms of the language.

The grammatical material is introduced progressively and systematically and each lesson contains copious drill material and exercises. The vocabulary—about 500 words in each book—is introduced naturally as the lessons unfold, and a complete word list, together with phonetic transcriptions, will be found at the end of each book.

One reason for the success and popularity which *Essential English* has enjoyed for many years is surely the interest in the “characters”—Mr. Priestley, his family and his group of students. This provides the framework for the course, and almost without realising it the learner becomes absorbed in the personalities and everyday lives of Lucille, Pedro, Olaf, Jan, Frieda—and, of course Hob. Through their eyes we encounter not only the problems of learning English but also those of living in an unfamiliar country.

In spite of the “new look” of this new edition of my father’s course, it remains fundamentally the same as previous editions, and I believe that teachers who have been using them will quickly feel completely at home with it. Some of the material—particularly that dealing with everyday life in Britain—urgently needed bringing up to date, and this has been done. I have also re-written and expanded much of the grammatical explanation, and I hope that teachers and students will find these sections clearer and more useful. A number of

exercises have been revised, and in some cases re-written, and many of the illustrations have been re-drawn.

My father was always very glad to receive comments and suggestions from users of the course, and was able to make use of these when preparing revisions. I too have found such comments invaluable and shall be very glad to hear from teachers and students who have criticisms or can suggest improvements.

J.M.E.

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THE SOUNDS IN ENGLISH

Phonetic Symbol

Examples

VOWELS

i:	me, tree, three, he, people, the ¹
i	ship, it, ticket, this, king
e	bed, pen, egg, yes, men, well
æ	man, that, am, and, Paris, can, Spanish
ɑ:	past, dark, arm, are, car, hard
ɒ	not, lot, wash, song, from, rock, coffee
ɔ:	all, small, ball, or, forty, morning
u	put, full, look, good, foot, book
u:	who, move, noon, blue, do, too
ʌ	up, cup, much, sun, some, but
ə:	her, Thursday, burn, third, thirteen, worth, work
ə	a, the ² , under, father, address, servant, Saturday

DIPHTHONGS

ei	say, baby, train, plate, table, waiter, Spain
ou	no, smoke, those, motor, only, Poland, hotel
ai	five, nine, ice, eye, my, side
au	how, count, flower, cloud, hour, now
ɔi	boy, noise, boil, voice
iə	dear, clear, beer, really, ear
ɛə	where, there, their, chair, hair, care
ɔɜ ³	four, door, your, more, floor
uə	sure, poor

¹ Strong form.

² Weak form.

³ Many speakers of Standard English do not use this sound. They use, instead, [ɔ:].

*Phonetic
Symbol*

Examples

CONSONANTS

p	pen, pay, people, pull, open, help
b	be, bath, boy, bad, husband, bed, beef
t	train, tree, sit, tea, table, hotel, stop
d	door, day, sad, kind, desk, Friday, word
k	cold, back, clock, car, class, king
g	gold, bag, girl, dog, good, go, egg-cup
f	fine, far, safe, flower, fifteen, after
v	very, save, vegetable, seven, never
θ	thank, thick, thin, nothing, think, twentieth
ð	then, that, there, weather, with, together
s	so, sit, sleep, thinks, place, cigarette
z	zero, has, knives, comes, plays, noise
ʃ	ship, sharp, fish, English, short
ʒ	pleasure, measure
tʃ	Charles, each, Richard, much
dʒ	John, judge, age, Japan, language
h	his, happy, here, help, unhappy
m	man, make, many, my, swim
n	name, near, then, finish
ŋ	sing, thing, working, English, king
r	red, around, very, rich, every, room
l	leave, long, full, pull, greatly, last
w	will, work, away, when, window, wash
j	yellow, year, you, young, yes, piano

THE ENGLISH ALPHABET

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
ei	bi:	si:	di:	i:	ef	dʒi:	eitʃ	ai	dʒei	kei	el	em
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
en	ou	pi:	kju:	ɑ:(r)	es	ti:	ju:	vi:	'dʌblju	eks	wai	zed

Lesson 1 (First Lesson)

Number 1 (one)



Number 1 is a man.

This is a man.



Number 2 (two)



Number 2 is a woman.

This is a woman.



Number 3 (three)



This is a boy.

Question: What is this?

Answer: This is a boy.

WHAT?

Number 4 (four)



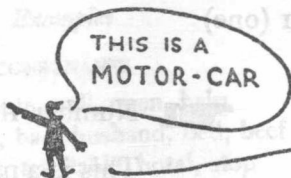
This is a girl.

Question: What is this?

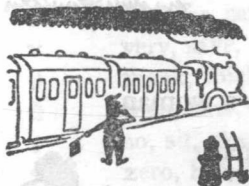
Answer: This is a girl.

WHAT'S THIS?

Number 5 (five)



Number 6 (six)



Question: What is this?



WHAT'S THIS?

Answer: It is a train.
It's a train.

Number 7 (seven)



Question: What is number 7?

Answer: Number 7 is a mountain.

Number 8 (eight)



Question: What is number 8?

Answer: Number 8 is a clock.



Number 9 (nine)



Question: Is this a tree?

YES

Answer: Yes, this is a tree.



QUESTION

ANSWER

Number 10 (ten)



Question: Is this a ship?

Answer: Yes, it is.

Number 11 (eleven)



Question: Is this a ship?

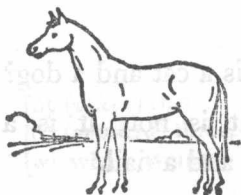
NO

Answer: No, it is not a ship;



it is a cigarette.

Number 12 (twelve)



Question: Is this a cigarette?

Answer: No, it is not a cigarette;
it is a horse.

Number 13 (thirteen)



Q This is a man and a boy.

AND

Number 14 (fourteen)



Question: What is this?

Answer: It is a woman and a baby.

Number 15 (fifteen)



Question:

Is this a woman and a baby?

Answer:

No, it is not; it is a cat and a dog.

Number 16 (sixteen)



Question: Is this a cat and a dog?

Answer: No, it is not; it is a hammer and a nail.

PRONUNCIATION DRILL

[i:]	[i]	[e]	[æ]	[ɑ:]
three	this	yes	man	car
four'teen	six	ten	cat	answer ['ɑ:nsə]
tree	ship	e'leven	'hammer	
fif'teen	is [iz]	'seven		
thir'teen	'baby	'question		
six'teen	'mountain	twelve		
	e'leven	ciga'rette		
	fif'teen	'lesson		
	in			
	six'teen			
	ciga'rette			

[ɒ]	[ɔ:]	[ʊ]	[u:]	[ʌ]
not	four	'woman	two [tu:]	'number
what	horse	put		one [wʌn]
dog	'four'teen			
clock				

[ə:]	[ə]	[ei]	[ou]	[ai]
girl	a	train	no	five
word	'woman	'baby	'motor	nine
thir'teen	'hammer	nail		write
first	'motor	eight		
	'answer			
	and			

[au]	[ɔi]
'mountain	boy

[ð] (voiced) this	[t] ten, tree, train, thir'teen
[θ] (unvoiced) three, thir'teen	[h] horse, 'hammer
[w] what, 'woman	

EXERCISES

I. Put in the missing words:



Number 1 is a —



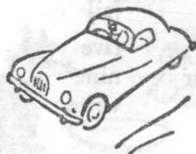
Number 2 is a —



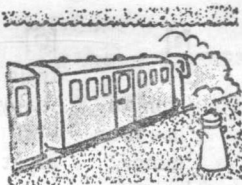
Number 3 is — —



Number 4 — — —



— 5 is a motor-car



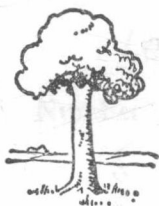
— 6 is — —



— 7 is — —



Number 8 — — —



What is
this?
It is — —



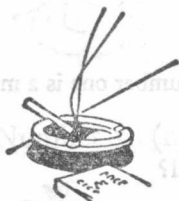
Is this a
man and
a boy?
— — — —



What is this?
— — — —



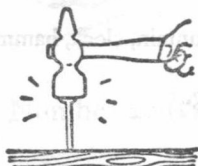
What is this?
— — — —



Is this a cigarette?
— — — —



Is this a cat and a dog?
— — — —



Is this a cigarette?

No, — — — —

It is — — — — —



Is this a cat and a dog?

— — — —

It is — — — — —

2. Write in words the numbers 1 to 16:

1 2 ...
one two ...

3. Answer the questions:

1. What is number 1?
2. What is number 2, etc.? (to number 16)
3. Is number 1 a man?
4. Is number 2 a woman?
5. Is number 3 a boy?
6. Is number 4 a train?
7. Is number 5 a mountain?
8. Is number 6 a woman?
9. Is number 7 a girl?
10. Is number 8 a clock?
11. Is number 9 a tree?
12. Is number 10 a cigarette?
13. Is number 14 a woman and a baby?
14. Is number 15 a hammer and a nail?
15. What number is a man? (Answer: Number one is a man.)
16. What number is a ship?
17. What number is a horse?
18. What number is a hammer and a nail?
19. Is number 12 a horse?
20. Is number 16 a cat and a dog?

Dictation

Man, woman, boy, girl, motor-car, train, mountain, clock, hammer, nail, first.

This is a cigarette. This is a cat and a dog.