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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

English Day-by-Day, Michael Roddy, published by Academic Therapy Publications.

(Editor's Note--To check out this new ESL book, we asked an ESL teacher to use the book and react in writing. The following is by Judy Sims, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Adult Education, English as a Second Language.)

This multi-purpose text stresses language skills in the context of real life situations. It is written on the level of adults who need to learn more about the language and life in th United States. Its units are divided into various aspects of daily routines and normal tasks.

A major strength of the book is the vocabulary section which begins each unit. Comprehensive and contemporary in word choice, the sections generated a lot of good conversations and discussions. I found the students particularly interested in the vocabulary lists.

The conversation sections are possibly the weakest parts. Students found the dialogues too difficult and involved to be effective. However, Mr. Roddy does pose some good questions at the end which generate stimulating discussions in class.

The grammar in this book begins at a very basic and simple level, and did not seem to coincide with the degree of English needed for the vocabulary, dialogue, and reading sections. The students who tried this felt it was too simple. However, the grammar can be used as a good review. In subsequent units, the grammar becomes progressively more sophisticated. All of the examples and exercises pertain to the unit's theme, thus reinforcing the vocabulary and subject areas as well as the grammar points.

The pronunciation exercises are especially useful. Problem areas in pronunciation are addressed and good contrasts are offered.

The life skills section presents just what it says--practical, real life skills, e.g., reading labels, classified ads, utility bills, locating phone numbers, reading and analyzing bills and advertisements.

This is a practical book, covering all the needed areas.
