

STREAMLINE ENGLISH - DEPARTURES

B. Hartley
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Oxford University Press, 1978

Streamline English seems to be a "god-send" for those teachers who find themselves without proper audiovisual aids. The delightful combination of photographs, drawings and pictures immediately interest and thus motivate students. The cleverly executed illustrations may also be used to stimulate conversations and writings.

The book consists of 80 brief units which could probably be covered in 40 classroom hours. Each unit has a clever title which relates to the content of the unit. A short dialogue based on a specific situation or grammar point opens each unit. Simple substitution or fill-in-the-blank exercises follow.

The lessons follow a rapid progression from simple to more difficult. This pace would be useful for "false" beginners, but with beginning students the teacher would have to plan in order to supplement this material. In this respect the illustrations could offer her many additional ideas. It would also be necessary to review previous units regularly to insure the spiraling or cycling process so important in the learning of a foreign or second language.

Upon analysis of the vocabulary used throughout Streamline English, it may be concluded that the book is aimed at young adults or adults. The dialogues between the boss and the secretary or the amusing description of the gentleman out on the town indicate Streamline English was not intended for children. On the contrary, the dialogues contain sufficient spice to bring a smile to the lips of even the most exhausted EFL student.

The student of Streamline English in any country can easily relate to the amusing situations and the entertaining characters. Students can feel a part of a wedding, a cocktail party, a fashion show -- all universal situations. An attempt has been made to use authentic language in these situations though some of the dialogues still appear slanted toward the English found typically in textbooks e.g. "Are you a businessman?" "No, I'm not. I'm a tourist".

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