

## ***Book Review Section:***

### **A Way with Words: Vocabulary Development Activities for Learners of English**

**BY STUART REDMAN**

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**Stuart Redman. *A way with words: Vocabulary development activities for learners of English. Book 3.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. 124 p.**

*Reviewed by Nina Guizar, Instituto Mexicano Norteamericano de Relaciones Culturales, A.C., Mexico City.*

*A way with words* by Stuart Redman is a wonderful supplementary text that can be easily adapted to a learners' needs at an intermediate to advanced level. It fulfills the student's ever-growing demand to acquire vocabulary quickly and easily. Redman presents the material at hand without onerous embellishments.

The text contains one thousand items to be studied and the exercises are learner-oriented. Short, eye-catching chapter titles, such as *Going Places* or *Choices*, provide handy reference for students on the run. Rather than the traditional index at the end of the text, Redman installs a section called *Summary of Exercises* which delineates the grammar points contained in each chapter.

Example:

Affixation:

1. Adjective suffixes, e.g. -ate
2. Verb prefixes, e.g. mis-
3. Adjectives often confused, e.g. economic vs. economical

The text is published by Cambridge University Press; therefore, those teaching American English should make the learners aware of certain discrepancies in vocabulary between British and American usage.

Example:

Br.: carry on, Am.: go on

Br.: tick, Am.: check

Br.: Where's the toilet? Am.: Where are the Rest Rooms?

*A way with words* emphasizes communicative practice of new vocabulary. Several of the exercises must be done with a dictionary. This enlightens learners on the many advantages of using a dictionary, as well as giving them ample exposure to correct spelling.

*A way with words* develops vocabulary learning as a skill and helps learners to become more efficient in organizing, storing and remembering new vocabulary. It also offers exercises in pair-work and elicits stimulation in conversation ability.

The Redman text is a fresh answer to an old complaint: "How can I say what I want to say with the right words?"

The packet includes a Teacher's Book, a Student's Book and a supplementary cassette.