



English for Art and Humanities. A Dynamic Course for Professional and Personal Development.

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English for Art and Humanities. A Dynamic Course for Professional and Personal Development is designed for students and professionals who want to improve their English language in a specialized context. The book covers different areas, such as Art History, History, Literature, Film, Media and Language; therefore, those who would like to learn English in the fields mentioned may find this book useful. Regarding the structure, all the chapters follow the same one: In every unit several lessons are presented where the subject is briefly introduced and the reader is provided with several tasks and different exercises to do. In most units we can find one or more pictures which are associated with the topic being dealt with and this is excellent to visually relate the theme with the rest of the unit. At the end of every unit we find some interesting “Extension work”, which is extremely valuable in order to reinforce the topic in question and the issues considered throughout every lesson.

After unit 5, a glossary with some basic vocabulary for every subject is included. We can also find different appendices dealing with the ways the English language works: from grammatical aspects to tips related to spoken English. At the end of the book there is a key to all the exercises so that the book can be used either as a self-study manual or guided by a teacher. The textbook contains an audio CD with some listening comprehension exercises corresponding to the different units in the book. One may think that too many topics are covered very briefly but, on the other hand, it is a good overview of different fields in distinct specialized areas and if students or teachers want to take advantage of it, there are many options to increase practice and knowledge of English.

Once the general structure of the book has been introduced, some interesting aspects can be highlighted. In unit 1 American Art is presented

through a group of “storytellers” of the American experience and different interesting topics are covered. The first one is the black forced migration from Africa to America. We are immediately attracted by the picture by Faith Ringgold, an African-American artist, since the image illustrates a stunning dream image in the harbor of New York near the Liberty Statue, representing the American dream. The second subject in unit 1 is the migration of black people from the South to the North of the United States. The Great Migration proved to be a period of sadness for many Southern African-Americans, which was caused because the society at that time refused to accept blacks in an equal manner. Unfortunately, there are no color pictures, otherwise the sadness reflected could be better appreciated; the main color in the picture is blue, which in English represents the color par excellence to express sadness, and here what the author wants to transmit is the longing and sadness felt by migrating people from their homes and families. Moreover, in every printed image, we are advised to search for the original ones on the Internet, which makes learners more active and autonomous in their learning process. The last topic in unit 1 is the Great Depression in the United States. Again, we are presented with some images directly related to the history and everyday life of the United States during the Great Depression. In the three lessons we can listen to some of the texts presented in the audio CD included in the book.

In unit 2, we can see a similar structure. In lesson 4 within this unit Barack Obama’s Race Speech has to be highlighted. Only an extract has been included but we are encouraged to see his whole speech in the “youtube” platform, which is used as a very important teaching tool nowadays. By doing this, once again, students can practice their listening comprehension. Unit 3 focuses on Literature, and some pieces by different writers are included as well as some poems associated with soldiers in World War I. Some famous British and American writers are mentioned as well as some of their works, for example, Jane Austen or Nathaniel Hawthorne. In the “Extension work” the student is encouraged to review some books and also to use the Internet once again to look for poems written by soldiers in the other 20th and 21st century wars.

Unit 4 is particularly attractive since it covers the subject “Film and Media”, thanks to which we are offered many interesting websites corresponding to some important newspapers and publications in English. Headlines are particularly stressed and many up-to-date pieces of news, related to politics, art, music, etc., are presented. Interculturality is emphasized and important

sociocultural elements in a globalized world are introduced. Finally, unit 5 is devoted to “Language”, something useful and necessary for professionals in the field of ESP. Especially relevant is the part dedicated to how to write a c.v. and the information that should be included (with samples); the cover letter that should be attached to a c.v., and also some valuable guidelines to write an effective cover letter. Again, in the “Extension work” section, we can find much helpful information with a list of many places and resources to improve oral skills.

In English for Art and Humanities. A Dynamic Course for Professional and Personal Development skills are integrated, since reading and writing are constantly emphasized throughout the book, as well as listening by means of the recordings on the audio CD and the websites which are recommended as well. The speaking skill is fostered in the last unit with all the addresses associated with English speaking and English learning in general. Only one is missing, which is the Maïbar pub, C/ Campoamor 12 in Madrid. Another important observation is that authentic materials are used throughout the whole book, as we can see in the poems and other literature extracts presented in unit 3; the race speech by Obama in 2008 (page 45); or letters sent to the “agony column” of a newspaper (pages 83-85).

The use of *English for Art and Humanities. A Dynamic Course for Professional and Personal Development* is highly recommended to ESP teachers, students and professionals within the areas the book covers, since it can contribute to help them to better master some aspects of their field of study in an attractive and enjoyable way.

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