



Preface

How to use this book

Introduction

“The Way Ahead” is a workbook. It is a means of noting, storing and working on ideas, as well as being the initial catalyst for those ideas. There are therefore a number of pages which are left fairly blank, so that they can be used in this way. If students are encouraged to see the book in this way, problems related to lack of note-paper, note-books, last week’s handout, etc., can be significantly reduced. On this topic, it can be useful and motivating for students to have a portfolio folder in which to carry the book, writing/editing tools, and Project records, such as the ongoing Cassette Journal, texts, photographs and video-recordings.

Content

The teacher is the “resident expert” in the classroom, who can diagnose the learning needs and language problems of his/her students. The Project format provides a setting in which this counseling can happen, without the restrictions of having to present prescribed content irrespective of actual student needs. Teachers are therefore free to match their own input to the needs of their learners, and to offer them whatever they feel is appropriate. This might include for example a visit to a language resource such as a Language Laboratory, in order to study a pronunciation tape, to watch a News Video, or to make a personal cassette tape. On the other hand the teacher might feel that a group of students could benefit by performing on-line interactive English exercises on the Internet. Whatever the situation, the teacher is there to offer advice and to suggest ways of coping with problems.

The Framework

Students are usually aware of their learning problems, but are often unsure as to how to solve them. The process of involving them in their own learning decisions and helping them to become successful learners therefore needs careful and sensitive preparation on the part of the teacher. The Units in “The Way Forward” are designed to facilitate such an approach, and while keeping the format as open as possible for those who have the confidence to proceed, also provide a more structured approach for those who need more direction and preparation.