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Diane Engelhardt



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Preface

Practice Makes Perfect: Intermediate English Reading and Comprehension contains 15 reading texts about unusual and amazing topics. The book is designed to:

- Build your English vocabulary
- Develop reading comprehension skills at an intermediate level
- Stimulate further investigation into the topics presented

This workbook is directed at the English language learner at the intermediate level—the student in a classroom looking for extra practice, as well as the independent learner practicing at his or her own pace.

Each chapter contains the following sections:

1. **Pre-reading** As an introduction to the topic, students who are learning in a classroom setting can answer questions or engage in a short discussion.
2. **Reading text** Following the theme of “find out about it,” the stories—each between 1,000 and 1,600 words long—cover a broad range of topics of international appeal. They originate in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Germany, Japan, and Australia.
3. **Vocabulary** Understanding and learning vocabulary can be difficult. You will find lots of new words in each text, and since not every new word can be included in a vocabulary list or exercise, you are encouraged to use an English-language dictionary and to keep an independent vocabulary journal to record new words. The exercises are broken down as follows.
 - **Organizing vocabulary** An effective way to increase vocabulary is to learn words in association with other words—that is, to organize words according to subject matter. For example, in the reading about the Findhorn Community, there are many words that relate to gardening and spirituality.
 - **Understanding vocabulary** Each chapter focuses on 15 words, which are in bold type in the reading text. You will master not only each word’s synonyms and/or dictionary definition, but also its part of speech (noun, adjective, verb, idiom, phrase). Example: *competition* (n.), *competitive* (adj.), *compete* (v.).
 - **Using vocabulary** A variety of exercises help you learn to use the 15 words in sentences.
4. **Reading comprehension** Comprehension exercises differ from chapter to chapter under the following headings:
 - Reading for main ideas
 - Reading for details
 - Reading for facts and figures
 - Reading for meaning

5. **Reading skills** In this section, you will learn to summarize the main ideas in the reading text. Exercises include outlines, timelines, profiles, charts, diaries, and short summaries in the form of newspaper articles and interviews.
6. **Web search and writing** In this two-page exercise, you can work with a study partner and further develop your reading skills by searching the Web for information about the topic. A short writing exercise concludes the web search.

An answer key is provided at the end of the book with answers to the exercises in the Vocabulary and Reading comprehension sections.



Reading is a great source of knowledge, but—more than providing facts, figures, and a wealth of information—reading can take us on journeys to places we might never see and introduce us to people we could never meet in person. The amazing stories in this book were written not only for your skill development but also for your pleasure. Read them and enjoy!

Acknowledgments

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