

Outcomes: useful and engaging stuff

The real-world English lessons in this series of books provide an excellent grounding for learners

Outcomes Upper-Intermediate
Heinle, Cengage Learning, 2010

Student's Book

Hew Dellar, Andrew Walkley
978 1 111 03404 7

Workbook

Amanda Maris
978 1 111 05413 7

Vocabulary Builder

Sheila Dignen, Guy De Villiers

Teacher's Book

Carol Nuttall, David Evans
978 1 111 03405 4

Several reviews ago I recall commenting on how more and more general English courses are put together by teams of authors. Heinle's *Outcomes* is brought to us by seven people, and they've created a superb course with some really interesting additional material.

Upper Intermediate Outcomes is the fourth of a five-part series taking the learner from elementary to advanced. The sixteen units each cover six pages of three 50–90-minute lessons,

ranging in topic from the usual entertainment, sports and nature to the less common but equally useful ESP areas of business, banks and money, thereby also catering for learners already in or about to start a career.

Subtitled 'Real English for the Real World', *Outcomes* – unlike most general English courses – has an emphasis on oral skills. Units begin with conversation, followed by reading or listening, with work on language patterns such as 'Can you recommend any good shops?' and 'It's not something that I'm interested in'. There are also tasks on developing conversations by, for example, agreeing using synonyms, responding to compliments, exaggerating and checking what you've heard.

The 'Native speaker English' section in each unit reveals, for example, that 'uni' is preferred in speech to 'university', and offers help with the use of 'might as well', 'up for it' and how sarcasm can be used to make a point. This is all useful, real-life stuff.

After its final unit, *Outcomes* provides eight short sections covering areas for professionals, such as reports, letters and personal statements. Other praiseworthy features include interesting texts and regular review sections.

The vocabulary builder provides details on the meaning and use of about fifty key words in each unit, which could easily function as lexical progress tests. The MyELT system at <http://elt.heinle.com> helps teachers provide further activities.

The detailed teacher's edition is longer than the student's edition and I'm not sure qualified professionals really need so much help. That said, this is one of the most useful coursebooks I've seen in recent years, one certainly worth discussing at a language department coffee afternoon.

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