

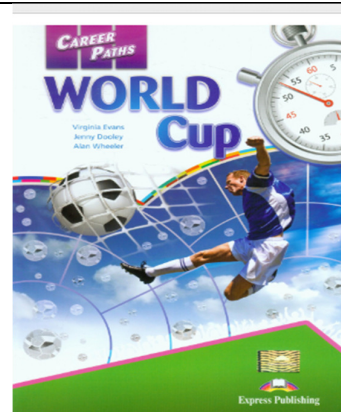


The Reading Matrix: An International Online Journal
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Career Paths: World Cup (2014)

Virginia Evans, Jenny Dooley, and Alan Wheeler.
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My initial thoughts on this particular ESP textbook were it is for a very niche field, i.e., football-event and support staff. However, on further inspection, I recognized that it is actually a very novel way of presenting functional language relevant to this particular area of study. It is also organised in a unique way that the purchaser gets three books for the price of one. Each section consists of 15 units that offer a balanced progression from the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR): A1 to B1.

Furthermore, visually the layout and design are aesthetically appealing throughout, and its scope and sequence are clearly set out under 4 categories; topic, reading context, vocabulary and function. In addition, it also presents useful phrases and vocabulary in context as well as being supported by authentic materials and topics that would serve the curriculum needs of this ESP field of study. Concerning the structure, it is clear and coherent that guides the learner through the various activities that are very informative, and ultimately, will stimulate the learner's interest. For instance, Unit 2, entitled: Match Scheduling--The World Cup qualifying format: from the group stages through to the final. This is displayed through the means of an authentic diagram as would be seen on other media platforms such as TV (please see link below for sample pages).

Moreover, student-to-student interaction regarding communicative tasks is prevalent in each unit. This is followed by a brief writing task, for example, in Unit 1 and 6, which links in and forms scaffolding with the previous speaking activity that enables learner's to produce what they have learnt and apply it in a different task (please see link below for sample pages). It also comprises of an extensive glossary after each level. However, pronunciation work of key phrases would have been a useful addition to the vocabulary section in each unit. Or at least, it would have been a good idea to have included the phonetic transcription in the glossary of key vocabulary to enable the learner to practice the correct pronunciation. Nonetheless, on the whole, student's get a comprehensive language textbook that serves all their language needs.

In regards to tasks, it covers all the four skills that are essential for Second Language Acquisition (SLA); listening, reading, writing and speaking. Furthermore, it is student friendly with authentic functional language, with clear and appropriate targets and objectives. Each of the main units follows a format consisting of the following sections; (i) Warm-up: introduces the theme of the unit. (ii) Reading: comprehension check questions. (iii) Vocabulary: multiple-choice, gap-fill or matching words or phrases. (iv) Listening: presents tasks that develop

specific information, gist and inferential listening skills. (v) Speaking/Conversation topic: presents vocabulary and dialogue practice along with productive communicative tasks (pair-work), and (vi) Writing: provides both a model and a reason to read and write (please see link below for sample pages).

Finally, I was particularly impressed by the reading context, which draws from a multitude of sources such as; newspaper articles, web pages, memos, travel guides, first-aid guides and regulation sheets. This textbook also comes with a Teacher's book containing a full answer key, audio scripts, audio CD's. It is also available on the Express DigiBooks App.

For sample pages please see: <https://www.careerpaths-esp.com/worldcup#>