

The Language People

September 2007

STAFF MOVES - Teresa is off to Chile, perhaps for as long as a year, and Lyndal will be in the shop and perhaps grumpier than usual 6 days a week, unless she is relieved by Emma.

Emma is a first year classics student, and very clever with computers and things like that.



The other big news is that our website is up and running. It still needs a bit of tweaking, but have a look on www.languagepeople.com.au My webmaster is Emma's "little" brother James. We will be archiving the latest editions of the newsletter there, so I'm not yet sure what its future in this format is. I may just send you a message to say, "New stuff on the website." One last plea to those who haven't let me know their email address yet - *please* do so! Advance notice which may come as a shock to some of our country customers, I think I may close between Christmas and New Year this year. I've never done it before, but Teresa's only been gone a week and I'm exhausted already! Now, to books.... I'm having great difficulty getting Cobuild books, but I've been promised there will be a new edition of their excellent Advanced learner's dictionary within the next little while.

In tempo, which is an old but good pronunciation resource especially helpful for Asian speakers, is now available with CDs. \$59.90 for the book and 2 CDs
Chambers School Science dictionary A small heavy hardback for \$29.95. Doesn't make any concessions for L2 learners, but it has clear layout, a wide range of subjects and a fair few illustrations. The definitions are broken up with "Did you know?" panels, timelines, tables, usage explanations, etc. Secondary level.

Chambers adult learners' guide to numeracy \$22.95 A respectful, sensible book dealing with everyday Maths. Unfortunately it's British, so money is Sterling, but otherwise it's excellent.

This one's Australian: Junior high school Maths study dictionary \$19.95 A user-friendly book

Chamber's adult learners' writing guide \$22.95 My only quibble with this one is that the print is too small for many adult literacy learners. Otherwise it's well laid out, clear, simple, practical. Includes emails and a section on easily confused words.

A long way gone by Ishmael Beah \$28 Anyone with students from Sierra Leone must read this book and the rest of us should too. It explains how children become soldiers, and the seemingly impossible task of reversing the process. If we witnessed just one of the incidents this boy describes, we'd be traumatized for life, but these kids not only witnessed literally hundreds of them but also perpetrated them. You may have seen Ishmael interviewed by Andrew Denton. How he can be such a together and gracious young man is incredible.

Teaching practice: a handbook for teachers in training \$45 by Roger Gower et al. ESL/EFL, pre-service, task-based. Includes a chapter for the new trainer, also one on lesson planning. This interested me because so many newly-trained teachers come in here and ask me for books of lesson plans that I've begun to wonder what they do in teacher training courses these days. By the way, I don't have any. (Books of lesson plans)

The Oxford ESOL handbook \$59.95 Written specifically about migrants and refugees, for new and practising teachers and also teacher trainers. The author, Philida Schellekens, writes like one of us in a readable down-to-earth style. Brim full of commonsense and good ideas.

The CELTA course... Trainee book \$49.95 This is the only coursebook endorsed by Cambridge ESOL, and it's very good, so why not stop re-inventing the wheel and use it? Even for someone not wanting a formal qualification, it's an excellent introduction to the field.

The parent's guide to speech and language problems \$24.95 A non-patronizing, helpful book. I should think teachers would find it interesting too.

IELTS Express intermediate workbook Packaged with a CD for only \$20.95, this book supplements the IELTS Express student book, but it can also stand alone and it's a fairly cheap option for students needing extra practice or even for people not doing IELTS.

Longman preparation series for the new TOEIC test: intermediate level (don't you hate redundant book titles? It's like saying "PIN number") \$55.95 for a fat book + student CD

Here are this quarter's topics for Issues in Society :

- Resilience & coping skills
- Immigration & citizenship
- Australia's biodiversity
- Physical activity
- Child poverty
- Cloning & Stem Cell Research

Each booklet is \$19.95. They don't have activities but they are a great collection of articles on the topic, intermediate level and upwards.

We're getting in more of Jeremy Harmer's "Just..."

series all the time. We've just added Just grammar: Pre-int and Just grammar: Intermediate, and Just vocabulary: Pre-int and Int, each \$31. They're very good. Even the listening & speaking ones which include a CD only cost \$31

Language links: grammar & vocabulary for reference and self-study: Pre-int \$41.50 for book and audio CD. I really like this series, which is available now in two levels - beginner/elementary, and elem/pre-int. This package with the audio CD makes it even better. It is organized (and indexed) both by grammar and vocab, and they are well linked. Most units have a useful section called "Phrases".

Dyslexia \$35 This book says that dyslexia affects about 10% of children, so it stands to reason it makes its way into *our* classrooms as well. This book is informative and readable, with practical and effective teaching strategies.

Oxford dictionary of phrasal verbs \$97.50 (Yes, that's right) This is the second edition of what used to be published as the *Oxford dictionary of current idiomatic English Vol 1*. It is suitable for teachers or advanced level learners. Obviously for that price it's comprehensive and excellent. We'd just better hope Fran buys it. It has some very useful tables and explanations at the back which would help in the teaching or learning of this hard-to-master area. There's also a new edition of Really learn 100 phrasal verbs \$28.95, which, like its big brother above, is excellent, and more an intermediate level.

Super-mini phrasal verb dictionary \$12.95 American (but then so is much of life) so it has odd things like *slow up* and *start over*, but useful and small enough to hold in the hand.

Chambers Desktop Guides: Letter writing \$18.95 A neat little hold-in-the-hand book with practical advice and lots of models, which, believe me, I am asked for *a lot*. Includes email. It's British, and there's definitely a gap in the market for a local one, if anyone has time.....

Two more titles in the excellent *Oxford basics for children* series: Storytelling and Vocabulary activities, each \$14.95, they have a useful introduction, then the activities are divided into two age groups, 4 – 7 and 7 – 12, with a variety of levels, resources (often none or the whiteboard), and lengths of time for the activities.

ESL teacher's book of instant word games for grades 7 – 12 \$63.95 Oldie but goodie. 3 levels, 200 photocopyable worksheets, a little bit American but very useable. It's the kind of thing you give to fast finishers and then everybody wants one.

Inspiration: Builder 1: Teacher Resource Pack \$52.95 Almost every series of course books these days comes with a Teacher Resource Book. They often have stand-alone activities that can re-inforce or

add variety to your lessons, whether or not you are using the course book. This one is a 4-level course taking teenagers from beginner to intermediate level. It's cheaper than some of the photocopiable material. Junior scrabble superspelling games: Age 6 + and age 7+ \$10 each. These are just individual workbooks



that have little letter stickers to fill in the blanks with, though they could just as well be done with a pen or pencil. They look like fun.

English books 1 – 4: Pre-school skills (ages 3 – 5) and School skills (ages 4 – 6) \$7.95 each, lots of colourful stickers for learning letters and sounds, first words, some blends, some rhyming words.

Silly songs \$6 Fill in the blanks with whacky words. I think little kids would enjoy its silliness.

101 great classroom games \$24.95 American mainstream primary. Really imaginative activities covering various curriculum areas. Many of them would be usable or adaptable for our learners. A "noise level" is given for each activity!

Side by side picture cards 3rd Ed. \$163.95 (Yes, that's right) These cards go with *Side by side Levels 1 & 2*. There are 214 of them, and they're about 6" x 4", suitable for kids and beginner adults.

English for life: Beginner \$55 (A 3-level course, so far). 80 one-page lessons each with only one focus, and every eighth one is an episode in a soapie, which I think would keep the learners engaged. The audio scripts are at the back of the student book, so at a pinch you could manage without buying any components other than the SB. It's all very neatly done and I think would work well.

English for specific purposes \$55 In the Oxford Resource Books for Teachers series, this book has over 80 activities covering a range of work areas and mainly levels pre- intermediate to advanced, though there are a few elementary. Many of the activities are job-specific, but useful "transfer" suggestions are made

Skillworks! Bks 1 – 4 \$16.95 each. This is an Australian series of mainstream English homework books for the first four years of secondary school. The pages are removable for correction by the teacher and are holepunched for students' files. Comprehension, vocab, grammar, punctuation, spelling. I could see them being used by tutors or

volunteers with ESL kids

Bi-lingual dictionaries

Pocket Oxford Polish-English \$49.95 You won't fit it in your pocket but you'll find lots of words in it. Very up-to-date. I noticed "performance indicators" made it in. That's a relief.

Oxford colour Italian plus \$32.95 and Oxford colour Spanish plus \$28.95 40,000 words and phrases, vinyl cover, clear layout, handy size for carrying.

Children's picture books

Baby bright: baby faces \$8 Robust hardback for age 0+. See, hear, touch.

Bad dog, Marley! \$15 It's not the original "Marley and me" story, but it's definitely the same dog! A witty text, delightfully illustrated.

Paddington: the original story of the bear from Peru \$15 I'd never actually read it before; it's rather charming.

Find the puppy \$10 For babies and toddlers.

Reading makes you feel good. \$14.95 A positive and very colourful book.

This one is definitely for older children, and even adults: The island by Armin Greder, \$29.95 for a big bleak hardback. If it hadn't been written in Germany I'd swear it was about John Howard. It was written in 2002 - when was the Tampa? It is precisely a study of xenophobia. Needs to be handled with care, but could be a very powerful teaching tool. It is grim and sad. In an unusual approach in a children's book, the stranger remains naked and totally defenceless throughout.

For older children

Ida B \$15 Oh, I've been sucked in by a children's book *again!* I was just going to dip into it and at first I found Ida B annoyingly over the top, but she intrigued me and I kept going. It's a compelling story about how one very bright, imaginative little girl copes with grief. For reading ages 8 to 61.

An inconvenient truth: young person's guide adapted from the award winning film by Al Gore \$24.95 Beautifully put together, with not too much text and plenty of maps and graphic pictures.

Cedar, seals and whaling ships: transport, trade and travel in Australia 1788 – 1830s \$29.95 Hardback. The second book in this series. Interesting and informative, and delicately illustrated. Some sections would make suitable texts for adult learners interested in our history.

Young adult fiction

The killer's tears by Anne-Laure Bondoux \$17.95 A book for young people that starts with the double murder of a little boy's parents has to be a bit unusual. Set in the desolate far south of Chile, beautifully and sparsely written, this is a story about the redemptive power of love, but its sadness will

haunt you.

Small steps \$15.95 by Louis Sachar, author of *Holes*. Armpit tries to keep his life on track after his year in the juvenile correctional center digging holes. Warm, funny, entertaining.

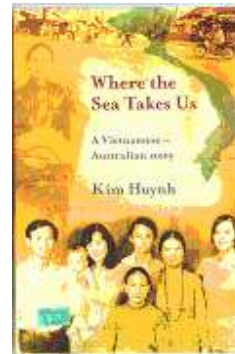
Culture Corner

Sasha visits Beijing \$13.95 A little girl "does" many Chinese highlights in one short, pretty book.

Time to celebrate \$34.65 A study of festivals from different cultures, to explore identity, diversity and belief. Includes photocopyable worksheets and activities. From Curriculum Corp.

I have some great little Aboriginal children's readers, ten different titles, \$9 each. Very simple texts, the lowest ones very repetitive. Good strong illustrations, very nicely produced by Education Queensland.

You might remember a book called Purple hibiscus that I raved about some time ago. I now have the second book by the same author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, called Half of a yellow sun \$25 Set in 1960s Nigeria. Haven't read it yet but I can't wait. It won the 2007 Orange Prize for fiction and has rave reviews.



Where the sea takes us \$30 A recent history of Vietnam as told through the stories of members of the author's family, who saw themselves as "ordinary" people yet showed great stoicism, inner strength and resilience.

General Books

God's little book of hope \$13 Encouraging and inspirational thoughts, one per page, with Biblical references.

The five people you meet in heaven by Mitch Albom \$22.95 A moving story about an old man who thought he was a failure. Also offers the author's guess about what the purpose of heaven might be! Also by Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie \$20.95 The true story of how the author re-establishes contact with his beloved college professor when the older man is dying with motor neurone disease. An incurable teacher, Morrie turns his dying into a lesson in living.

The right attitude to rain \$24.95 by Alexander McCall Smith. This is the latest in the "Sunday Philosophy Club" series. What it has in common with his charming Botswanan books is that he seems to have great affection for his characters, and he celebrates kindness and fairness. He evokes Edinburgh beautifully. (Marion, they go to Peebles!!)

Before I'd even had time to finish it, the next one in the series had appeared - The careful use of compliments \$32.95 I won't give too much away in case you want to read the whole series in order, but fans of Isabel Dalhousie will love this account of how she copes with motherhood along with other challenges.

I'm sorry to be so full of superlatives in this issue, but A friend like Henry \$35.95, is the most moving book I've read for a long time. It's the true story of a mother's struggle to get her child's autism diagnosed and to get proper help for him. It's remarkable as much for the help and support the little family received from their extended family and friends and also *some* professionals, as for the ignorance, prejudice and counter-productiveness of other professionals. Henry is the Golden Retriever who teaches the boy to love and allows a breakthrough in communication. There are some excellent practical ideas for helping people with autism, this most baffling of disabilities.

Teach Yourself Tracing your family history \$32.95 Specifically relating to UK and Ireland, and USA and Canada, but lots of useful information and sensible suggestions.

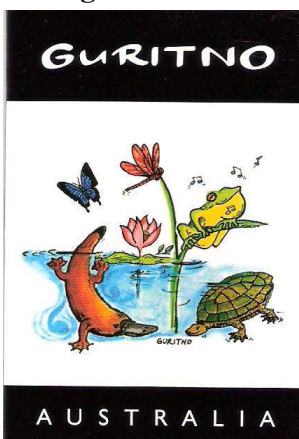
The little book of fantastic eye twisters \$12.95 Weird and wonderful stuff. Emma says it's awesome.

Dog Books, etc

It's OK to miss the bed on the first jump: and other life lessons I learnt from dogs \$24.95 The lessons are great, though some of them go on a bit long, and the dogs are gorgeous and very doggy. It's written by someone who's famous in America (on Seinfeld). 100 simple secrets why dogs make us happy \$20 The science behind what dog lovers already know. There's a story about a dog called Sara who regularly visited a primary school to listen to the children reading. Kids who felt that most people were only listening for their mistakes found Sara much more accepting.

Test your dog's IQ \$10.95 This is a half-serious book but serious dog trainers wouldn't like it because it confuses some issues. But it's entertaining.

New gift lines



I have some products from Australian artist Guritno. Fine bone china coffee mugs \$24.95, little square platters \$19.95, set of two shot glasses \$19.95. The designs are basically white with fine, slightly whimsical

Australiana in colour - animals, birds, floral emblems. Except the frog - he's bold. Check them out on his website www.guritno.com.au They each come in a stylish black box with its own little gift card. They would make lovely gifts to take overseas or give to visitors.

Classical music for sleep \$19.95 A lovely little CD of specially selected orchestral works by Holst, Barber, Mendelssohn, Elgar and Chopin to help you fall asleep easily and naturally. Based on Proper Scientific Research.

LOTE Corner

Teach Yourself is bringing out a lot more conversation packs, which consist of 3 audio CDs and a 48-page booklet. New in are Arabic \$47, Mandarin Chinese \$53, Italian \$39.95, Japanese \$43 and Polish \$47.

Teach Yourself Quick fix French grammar \$18.95 Chunky format, basic level, one main point per page, exercises, answers.

Teach Yourself German vocabulary \$25 These Teach Yourself books are well organized and effective.

This one's a bit different: French demystified: a self-teaching guide \$34.95 Mainly a grammatical approach with occasional functional chapters eg Talking about time and location, Suggestions and hypotheses. Lots of examples, exercises and tests. Simple enough for a beginner, but would also work as a refresher, and subtle enough to please quite advanced students. Also, Spanish de-mystified \$34.95

Oxford learner's Spanish dictionary \$25.95 Very new, very clear, lots of clever little ideas

Collins easy learning German grammar \$20. These Easy Learning books have very clear layout and excellent summaries and tables.

Two new Lonely Planet phrasebooks, Dutch \$13.95 and Middle East \$15.95

D!rty Japanese It's all yours for \$17.95. I didn't even know what some of the English meant!

I've kept the best till last: Esplora! SB 1 \$41.95

What caught my eye is that Joe Lo Bianco acted as consultant. It looks like an excellent course, and if you're interested, have a look at its website www.esplora.com.au to see which components are available, and have a free tour of Venice and Rome at the same time!

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