

# Abax - Review

From the EL Gazette  
**Freestanding**

**An Enjoyable and Inspiring Collection of Classroom Classics . . . .  
The lessons themselves are a model of clarity**



This is, as the name suggests, a stand alone teacher's resource book. The 36 lessons cover a variety of high-frequency themes and topics such as advertising, jobs, tourism, freetime arrangements, appearance and character and so on. The underlying methodology is described as 'language pull', where students pull the language they need from the teacher in accordance with the tasks, as opposed to the teacher trying to force students to use predetermined language items. However, the activities do have language aims, which include 'going to', modal auxiliaries, narrative tenses, comparative adjectives, word families, suffices and opinions, for example. The target vocabulary, on the other hand, is often described in the contents pages as 'various' largely as a result of the student-centered approach which relies heavily on both eliciting and on the students' generation of appropriate vocabulary.

The lessons themselves are a model of clarity. Each starts with a statement of aims followed by details of any preparation necessary. It is a particularly laudable feature of the book that many lessons require no special preparation in terms of photocopying or finding appropriate visual props or articles. The stages of each lesson are clearly presented over 2 or 3 pages. Generally procedure involves a warmer, a main skill section, vocabulary input and recycling, and language focus sections. Many include variations. Institutions invite the teacher to monitor and assist, and make good use of drills and teacher-centred listening where the teacher provides a personal language model and the students listen actively to controlled chunks of language.

The lessons themselves draw on many familiar activities such as 'scare stories', guess the famous person, giving directions, guess my job, describe and draw, and many others. There are many new twists, however, which make this an enjoyable and inspiring collection of classroom classics