

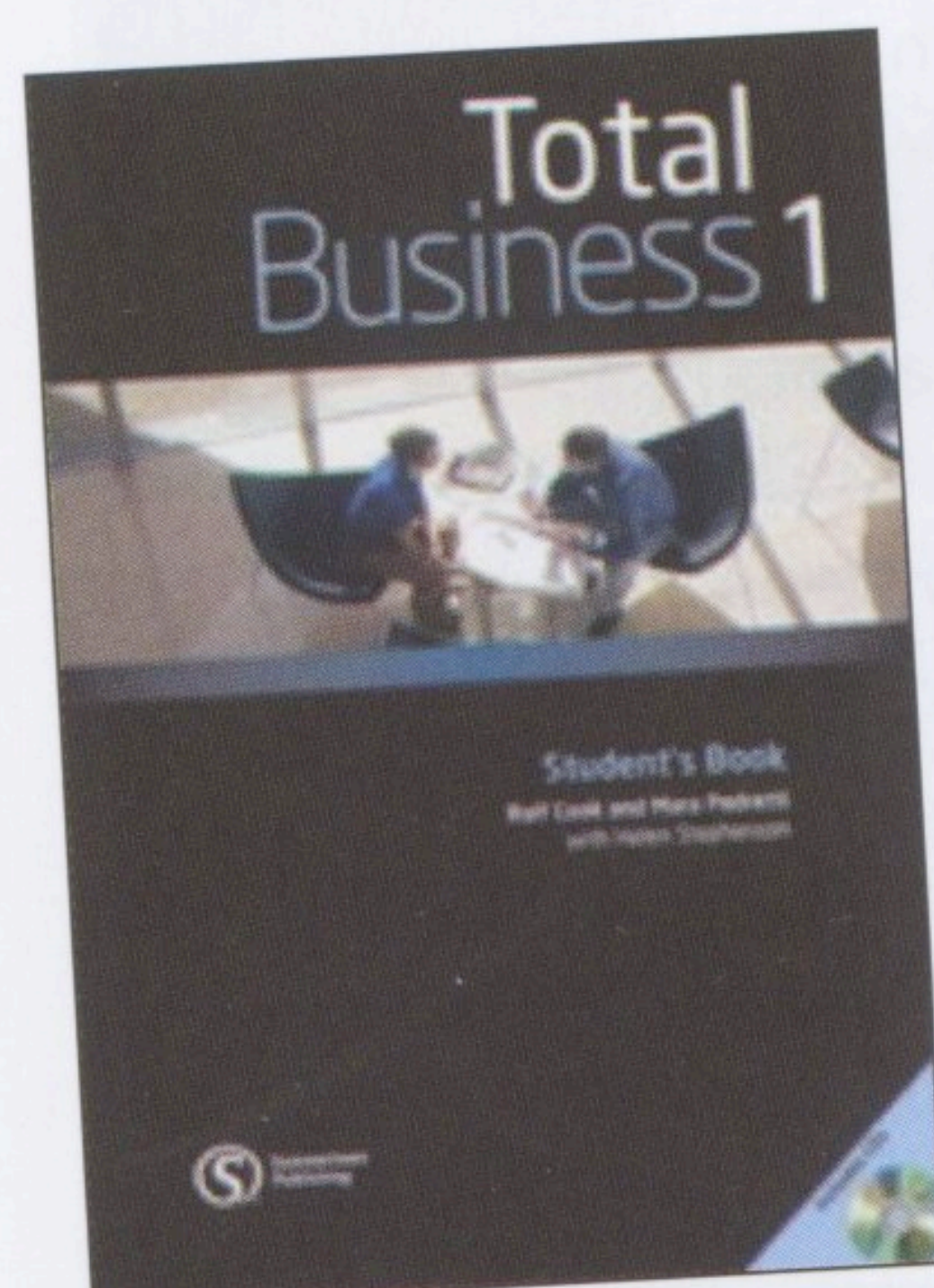
Materials reviews

Edited by Sandee Thompson

There is something for everyone in this issue of *Voices*. Colleen Swinemar explores the variety of activities available to business students and teachers in *Total Business 1*, I review a new version of *Just Right Advanced*, John McKeown explores the effect English has had and still has in the world in *English and Empowerment in the Developing World* and Chris Williams recommends the versatile and diverse *Activist Series*. All are very user-friendly. Enjoy!



Guest Editor, **Sandee Thompson**, is the Director of Studies at a small school in Atlantic Canada. She is a CELTA tutor and assessor and an IELTS examiner trainer. She received her MA TESL from Birmingham University and is interested in all things task based and learner focused!



Total Business 1 Student's Book

Rolf Cook and Mara Pedretti with Helen Stephenson

Summertown Publishing Ltd. [date?]

143 pages

ISBN: 978 0462 098616

At first glance, being a visual learner myself, I was impressed with the crisp vibrant colours and the engaging and relevant pictures contained within the pages of *Total Business 1*. More exciting, however, are the practical lessons that not only provide a broader understanding of business English for upper-intermediate to advanced students, but teach useful skills such as: 'Giving a short talk', 'Writing: Letters and emails', 'Problems and solutions' and 'Arranging business travel' to name a few. Certainly, this text is a refreshing change from some of the texts I've previously used in teaching business courses where I had to create my own lessons or make do with bland and boring texts.

This book changes all that. The course book includes 12 core modules, which contain useful expressions, listening scripts, pair work and group work activities and there are also two CDs, a workbook, a teacher's book and class CDs.

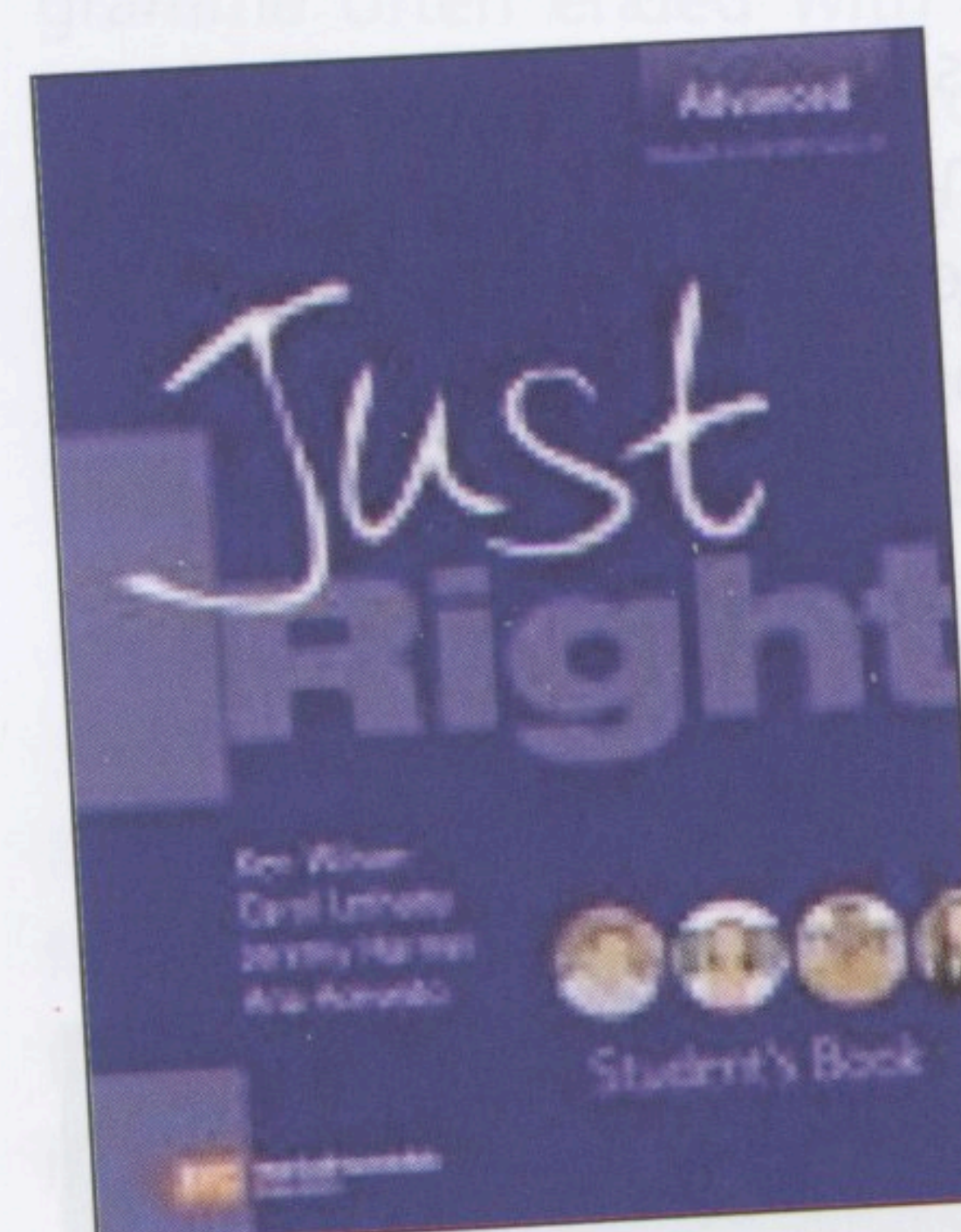
On page 4, the division of these modules is explained. Each includes: business topic, business skills, learning strategies, and grammar points. At the back of the text (p. 129) is a 'Useful expressions' section that I tried out in my conversation classes. It contains everything necessary to begin a conversation on the phone, arrange a meeting, greet someone, make invitations, answer personal questions, agree or disagree with someone and includes many other topics as well.

There is, however, one deceptive thing about this book and that is that although the cover says 'Student's Book', teachers will benefit as much as the students. The teacher's workload is diminished as well as having the added joy of watching students excel in everything business related including learning necessary skills and vocabulary. It even introduces learning strategies. This book lives up to its claims and is beneficial for all who use it.

Total Business 1 is complete in itself but can also be used as a precursor to related discussion topics or activities. This is a great addition to any library for both teachers and students alike. As a business owner and ESL teacher, I know I'm happy to have it in mine now.

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Just Right Advanced

Student's Book

Jeremy Harmer, Ana Acevedo, Carol Lethaby and Ken Wilson,

Marshall Cavendish Education 2009

169 pages

ISBN 978 0 462 09891 3

Just Right Advanced is a new language course aimed at the CEF's C1 level. The series is written by experienced EFL practitioners and has integrated tasks which will suit students with different learning preferences, varying ages and diverse backgrounds. There are extra activities provided with each of the units, a mini-grammar book which includes audio scripts, a bank of resource tasks and a 6-chapter reader. Both British and American English versions are available and CDs, workbooks and Teachers' books are also available.

The book's topics are relevant to today's community and include some of the usual fare—love, mysteries, the performing arts and dreams; however, they have a new twist. For example, in the fourth unit, 'Modern love', the writing task is the creation of an on-line personal ad, and the speaking task relates to speed dating. The unit on performing arts explores the transformative power of art and follows a unit which explores immigrant art forms and multiculturalism. There are texts about podcasts, sexual attraction, people who live with physical difficulties and others who live on the streets. However, these controversial topics are handled well and would promote good discussion and reflection.

The texts' lengths and the lexis introduced are appropriate for advanced language learners and the approaches used to introduce grammar are current with communicative language teaching frameworks. Language is introduced through content and practice tasks are varied throughout. The activities are those you would expect to find in an advanced course book: discussions, sentence completions, gap fills, writing advertisements and plays, and they are different in each chapter.

Visually, I loved this course book. The pictures were up-to-date and included a wide demography. There is more white space than is typical in most student books, which allows students to take notes in the margins and the cartoons are inoffensive and add a bit of colour.

I like both the content and the look of this book, both of which are crucial to me when I select new texts for our English department. I suspect the learners will enjoy using it as much as I did reviewing it.

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