

A Review of

# Dave Sperling's Internet Activity Workbook

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15 introductory pages +143 pages = 158 total pages

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*Dave Sperling's Internet Activity Workbook* and its coordinated web site provide students with useful activities for learning English as a Second Language. It is a valuable and welcomed resource for teachers and students alike.

Coordinated with the workbook is a companion web site that gives current links to web sites which help the student to complete the thirty theme-based activities. The workbook and its web site can be used as an Internet supplement to ESL texts and classes. The teacher would also be able to provide additional links on a class or personal home page. The workbook and web site also can be used by students to improve English language skills independently.

The workbook opens with a brief message to the teacher. Then, with a message to the students, Sperling introduces details of searching the web, sending and receiving e-mail, using 'smileys', following 'netiquette' and understanding other Internet issues. To familiarize the students with the methods, Unit 2 of the companion Web site is used to demonstrate how to use the program.

To use the program, the student goes to the main page of the web site, pulls down the scrolling menu, finds the desired unit and clicks the image that says "Begin". From there, the CGI script directs the student to a frameset with navigation buttons and a listing of the objectives of the unit. Clicking the link at the bottom of this page displays the page for the unit. This page displays the four links for the four activities of the unit.

Unit one is entitled *First Meeting*. In the first activity, the student is helped to locate a key pal (an Internet pen pal) to communicate with by e-mail. The workbook provides three questions for students to ask their key pals and a space for writing the answers. Activities two, three and four ask students to find information. Follow up activities in this unit require students to write five new vocabulary words as well as provide an opportunity to post thoughts on the bulletin board of the companion web site

## A Unit from the Book

Let's look at Unit 2 in the book. The theme is amusement parks.

- Top of page: Famous quote by Walt Disney
- Activity 1: Three questions are printed for students to ask their key pals. There is space to write two additional original questions and to record answers of the key pal. It is suggested that students share the responses from their key pals as part of a group discussion.
- Activity 2: Students search for web sites of amusement parks located in their country, choose four and write the names of the sites, the URLs, features of the parks, good and bad points of the parks and finally to rate them. This is followed by a writing activity where students write a review for one of these web sites.

- Activity 3: Students search the web to find the major attractions of Disneyland and to write information about them. An example is provided. This information provides the basis for the group discussion which follows.
- Activity 4: Students search the web for information about amusement parks in various countries, writing name and address and some of the attractions of a park in four countries. Once again an example is given and a group discussion follows.
- The Follow Up closes the lesson with a space to write five new words with definitions. On the web site there is a clickable link labeled "New Vocabulary" which sends the student to an on-line dictionary site to find definitions. The student is also asked to post his thoughts about amusement parks on the companion web site's bulletin board. The last thing on the page is a question, the answer to which gives the student a clue to solving the URL Puzzle on page 141.

## Appendix 1:

### A Description of the "How to Use This Program" Section of the Book

There is a screen shot from the companion web site for Unit 2. It shows a 2-part frame set, consisting of a page on the left and a page on the right.

- In the left frame there is a menu including these links.
  - Activities
  - Key Pal Page
  - Bulletin Board
  - Student Writing
  - URL Puzzle Page
  - Teacher Forum
  - Objectives

Other Options:

- Help
- Your Profile
- Feedback
- Site Search
- Syllabus
- In the right frame is the main lesson.
  - At the top of the page is the title "Unit 2 Amusement Parks".
  - Under this are buttons for:
    - Activity 1-Key Pal Interchange
    - Activity 2-Amusement Park Web Sites
    - Activity 3-Disneyland
    - Activity 4-Amusement Parks Around the World
    - New Vocabulary-Find the definitions of new words in on-line dictionaries.

## Appendix 2

This is what Dave Sperling has written in the workbook to the teacher and about how to use the program. Reprinted with permission from Prentice Hall Regents.

To the Teacher

Please don't be afraid of this book! I often meet teachers who are still afraid of computers and the

Internet, so I'd like to share a secret with you. The Internet is a fun, exciting, and extremely powerful learning tool for you and your students. and you'll find that it's easy to use! I made this discovery back in 1995 when I reluctantly (yes, I said reluctantly!) introduced my ESL students at California State University, Northridge, to the Internet. There, I taught them the basics of using e-mail and creating Web pages. What were the results?

My students found the Internet fun and "cool." My students were thrilled to share their creativity with the entire world. My students increased their reading and vocabulary in English because they were exploring the World Wide Web and discovering material that interested them. My students were writing e-mail messages in English every day My students were meeting and communicating with other students from around the world. My students were becoming more motivated and excited about learning English. My students were actually coming to class early! The results were amazing. I was hooked, my students were hooked, and I think you and your students will be too.

This program has two components which are used together: Dave Sperling's Internet Activity Workbook and the companion Web site. The workbook is divided into 30 theme-based chapters, which can be used in any order. The companion Web site, at the URL above, provided links to the Web pages needed to complete the activities in the workbook. It guides the students through the Internet as they explore a variety of topics and learn English.

Since the themes in this book are featured in most ESL textbooks, Dave Sperling's Internet Activity Workbook makes a great supplement. I think you'll find it flexible, fun, and easy to use. Of course, I am always open to your feedback and suggestions, and would love to hear about your experiences using this workbook and the companion web site. You can always e-mail me at [sperling@eslcafe.com](mailto:sperling@eslcafe.com).

By choosing this book, you should consider yourself an ESL/EFL Internet pioneer!

## How to Use This Program

### Components

There are two parts to this program: 1. Dave Sperling's Internet Activity Workbook 2. The companion Web site at <http://www.prenhall.com/sperling>

### Student Directions

In the first chapter, you will meet and begin corresponding with a key pal. Go to the Key Pal Page on the companion Web site and follow the directions to find a key pal. You will be writing to this person as you go through the chapters in this workbook. If your key pal stops writing to you, don't worry. You can always go back to the Key Pal Page to find another key pal.

The chapters in the book have a variety of activities:

Key Pal Interchange.

Exchange e-mail messages with your key pal. then write your key pal's responses in your workbook.

Other Activities.

Go to the companion Web site and select the appropriate chapter. Search the Web or information and write it in your workbook. Then participate in a:

- Group Discussion. Share information with your classmates.
- Role Play. Perform a skit based on your findings. or
- Writing Activity. Write a composition based on the chapter's theme. (If you want to publish your writing on the Web, go to the link for Student Writing and follow the directions.)

Follow Up. Each chapter also has a section for:

- New Vocabulary. Choose five new words, find their definitions in an on-line dictionary, and record them in a vocabulary log in your workbook.
- Bulletin Board. Post your thoughts in a Web-based discussion forum.
- URL Puzzle Clue. Search the Web to find the answer to a trivia question.

At the end of the book, you can solve a URL Puzzle! Write the circled letter from each chapter's URL Puzzle Clue in the URL Puzzle on page 141 of your workbook. When you think you have solved the puzzle, go to the URL Puzzle Page on the companion Web site and follow the directions. If your answer is correct, you will gain access to a secret Web site!

### Teacher Forum

Each chapter's Web page has a link to a Teacher Forum. On this bulletin board, teachers can post messages about the activities and share ideas with other teachers.

\*You must have a computer with live Internet and World Wide Web access.

## Appendix 3

### The Chapters (Units)

- These are the names of the chapters in the book.

1. [First Meeting](#)
2. [Amusement Parks](#)
3. [Animals](#)
4. [Architecture](#)
5. [Art](#)
6. [Astrology](#)
7. [Cities](#)
8. [Countries](#)
9. [Crime](#)
10. [Culture](#)
11. [Education](#)
12. [Family and Marriage](#)
13. [Food](#)
14. [Games](#)
15. [Geography](#)
16. [Health](#)
17. [History](#)
18. [Holidays](#)
19. [Literature](#)
20. [Money](#)
21. [Movies](#)
22. [Music](#)
23. [News](#)
24. [People](#)
25. [Science](#)
26. [Sports](#)
27. [Transportation](#)
28. [Travel](#)
29. [Weather](#)
30. [Work](#)

## Related Links

- <http://www.prenhall.com/sperling/>  
Dave Sperling's Internet Activity Workbook Companion Web Site
- <http://www.eslcafe.com/>  
ESL Cafe is a site maintained by Dave Sperling.

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