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## To the student

### What is the purpose of this book?

Using this book will help you improve your English vocabulary. It will help you learn not only the meanings of words but also how they are used. It will also help you develop strategies for learning new vocabulary on your own after you have finished using the book.

### How is the book organized?

The book has 100 two-page units. In most units the left-hand page explains new words and expressions that are studied in that unit. Where appropriate, there is information about how the words are used as well as their meaning. The right-hand page contains practice exercises to check that you have understood the information on the left-hand page. Occasionally the right-hand page will also teach you some more new words and phrases.

The index at the back of the book lists the words and phrases covered in the book and the units in which they occur. The index also gives pronunciations for most single-word entries and many two-word compounds, using the symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet. A key to those symbols is on page 202.

### How should I use this book?

The introductory units in the first section should be completed first. These units will help you gain useful techniques and strategies for vocabulary learning, which you will be able to use throughout the book. After completing the introductory units (if you are studying on your own), you might want to work straight through the book, or you might prefer to do the units in a different order.

### What else do I need in order to work with this book?

You will need a vocabulary notebook or file where you can write the new words you are learning. (See Unit 3 for advice on how to organize this.)

You will also need an English-English dictionary, preferably a learner's dictionary specifically for students whose first language is not English. Some good ones are the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*, the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, and the *Longman Dictionary of American English*. (There are many other good learner's dictionaries.) It would be useful to find a good bilingual dictionary as well. If you can have only one dictionary, a learner's dictionary is probably the more useful of the two. (See Unit 5 for advice on using dictionaries.)