

## Table of Contents

<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....	1
<b>Chapter One: Management Control</b> .....	3
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	7
Part II. Language Exercises .....	11
Further Reading: Internal Versus External Evaluation .....	16
<i>Exercises</i> .....	17
<b>Chapter Two: Motivation and Behavior</b> .....	20
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	25
Part II. Language Exercises .....	28
Further Reading: Nurse Managers and Motivation .....	32
<i>Exercises</i> .....	33
<b>Chapter Three: Hospital Management and Organizational</b>	
<b>Citizenship Behavior</b> .....	35
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	38
Part II. Language Exercises .....	42
Further Reading: Organizational Citizenship Behavior and	
Its Implications for Managers .....	47
<i>Exercises</i> .....	50

<b>Chapter Four: Organizational Tactics for the Successful</b>	
<b>Assimilation of Medical Practice Guidelines</b> .....	52
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	56
Part II. Language Exercises .....	60
Further Reading: Insufficient Interface .....	64
<i>Exercises</i> .....	65
<b>Chapter Five: Principles of Innovation</b> .....	67
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	69
Part II. Language Exercises .....	72
Further Reading: The Essence of Strategic Planning in Capital	
Investments .....	75
<i>Exercises</i> .....	76
<b>Chapter Six: Community Orientation in Health Services</b>	
<b>Organization</b> .....	79
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	83
Part II. Language Exercises .....	87
Further Reading: Antecedents to Community Orientation .....	92
<i>Exercises</i> .....	94
<b>Chapter Seven: Barriers to Customer Service</b> .....	97
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	99
Part II. Language Exercises .....	104
Further Reading: Paternalistic Culture .....	108
<i>Exercises</i> .....	110

<b>Chapter Eight: Waiting for Satisfaction</b> .....	113
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	117
Part II. Language Exercises .....	122
Further Reading: Managed Care Consumer Tips .....	126
<i>Exercises</i> .....	127
<b>Chapter Nine: Work Systems and the Changing Priorities of Production</b> .....	129
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	133
Part II. Language Exercises .....	137
Further Reading: “Taylorism” and “Fordism” as Improvements to the Factory System .....	142
<i>Exercises</i> .....	144
<b>Chapter Ten: Communication in Groups</b> .....	146
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	152
Part II. Language Exercises .....	156
Further Reading: Working in Groups with Other Agencies .....	161
<i>Exercises</i> .....	163
<b>Chapter Eleven: Models of Case Management</b> .....	165
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	170
Part II. Language Exercises .....	175
Further Reading: Case Management in Acute Care .....	180
<i>Exercises</i> .....	183

<b>Chapter Twelve: The Internet and the Concept of “eHealth”</b> .....	185
<i>Exercises</i>	
Part I. Understanding the Text .....	191
Part II. Language Exercises .....	195
Further Reading: The Internet and Access to Information in Health Care .....	201
<i>Exercises</i> .....	203
<b>References</b> .....	206

## Foreword

The present work is the second volume of a pair of ESP<sup>1</sup> books especially prepared for the students of health care management. The two volumes purpose is to boost the abilities of students so as to comprehend technical English texts in their field of study. Each volume is designed for a two-credit course in special English. Once employed together, however, they could well serve the requirements of a three-credit course. Thus used, the pair can provide the teacher with the flexibility to choose from among the wide range of topics those that best suit his specific needs.

The structure of this book is similar to the first volume. Each chapter starts with pre-reading activities that aim to lead the students into the required text. The reading text is followed by a range of exercises which are of two basic types. The first type of exercise mainly deals with general comprehension (distinguishing paraphrases, finding anaphoric references, exploiting sentence structures, etc.) while the second type provides an opportunity to work with technical as well as general vocabulary items. These are then followed by an extra (though shorter) text which is included for further reading. Finally, some comprehension exercises based on the latter text bring the chapter to an end.

The basic reading materials were extracted from a variety of authentic English journals and books in the pertinent areas. Professional opinion was sought so as to make the selections of texts as true representative samples as

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1. English for Special Purposes

of subject matters prospective health care managers are likely to encounter in their professional life. In preparing the exercises, the authors focused on the main area of difficulty on language areas supposed to be experienced by students when reading for comprehension. They have based their judgment mainly – though not exclusively – on years of teaching the same subject matter. It should be hinted that although the book by nature deals mainly with reading comprehension skills, some exercises encourage speaking and writing abilities too. Needless to say, this work is far from flawless, thus comments and suggestions for the next editions will be deeply appreciated.

**The authors,  
Summer 1385**