

Book review: *PhraseBook for Writing Papers and Research in English*

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PhraseBook for Writing Papers and Research in English

(Fourth edition)

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As this is the fourth edition of the *PhraseBook*, it is a well-polished textbook that addresses the needs of student researchers with native speaker fluency and research writers who are non-native speakers of English. According to the back cover blurb, since the publication of the first edition in 2000, the *PhraseBook* has been used in more than thirty countries across a range of academic disciplines, including Business, Economics, Education, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Medicine, Psychology and Science. The *PhraseBook* is primarily a reference book designed to assist non-native speakers as they develop as writers of academic English.

In terms of overall structure, the book is divided into four sections. Writing Help (pp. 1–118) is the first section and consists of seven chapters:

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1 Style 2 Spelling 3 Punctuation 4 Grammar

5 Vocabulary 6 Numbers 7 Time

The second section is Chapter 8 Phrases (pp. 119–226) and the third section is Chapter 9 Thesaurus (pp. 227–250). The final section is the Chapter 10 Glossary and Reference (pp. 251–291).

The inclusion of basic writing practice exercises in each of the four sections means that although the *PhraseBook* initially reads like a reference book, it can also be easily used as a textbook for teaching undergraduate and graduate students. These writing practice exercises are not elaborate but they do require student readers to have mastered the content of the previous material. If the *PhraseBook* were to be used as an academic writing textbook, the instructor would be required to develop secondary exercises tailored to the level and discipline of the students.

The clarity of this four-part structure gives student readers an introduction to the various genres required in academic writing. Chapter 8 Phrases has twenty nine sections which address topics, including preface and acknowledgments, the aim of your study, the relationship to other work, what you disagree with, arguing your case and putting forward ideas, quantifying, rhetorical questions and addressing your audience, tying a text together, concluding a study, chapter or section, and summary and abstract. The collective impact of these twenty nine sections is to ensure that student researchers are able to produce a competent piece of research writing.

The Thesaurus section is particularly useful in reducing the amount of time spent addressing the written work submitted by undergraduate students who insist on repeatedly relying on the same expression. Once students understand the need for variety, they easily check their own work prior to submission.

Highly recommended.