English through the News IV
High Intermediate Listening/Speaking Course
Textbook:
Targeting Pronunciation

Sue F. Miller
Course Description

- Students discuss American and world events as reported in various media, including internet, radio, newspaper, and particularly television news.

- Topics cover events and issues in culture, politics, the environment, business, the arts, sports, and science.

- Regarding language, focus is on the vocabulary, grammar structures and conversational styles needed to understand and discuss news events and issues.

- Students also gain instruction in English language pronunciation, varied speaking styles, and listening comprehension.
Objectives in Four Areas

1. LISTENING
   • Listen for Sounds and Patterns
     – Identify specific sounds (consonants, vowels, and word endings)
     – Identify syllables and stress patterns within words
     – Understand natural speech, including reduced and contracted speech
   • Listen for Meaning
     – Understand the main ideas of a talk or conversation
     – Identify major and minor details of a talk or conversation
     – Identify the speaker's tone/attitude
   • Listen and Take Notes

2. VOCABULARY
   • Understand and use new vocabulary
Objectives in Four Areas

3. SPEAKING

• Communicate ideas when telling a story or reporting information
• Paraphrase and report information
• Give short presentations (skills include organization, use of visuals, vocabulary choice, relating to audience, voice control, body language, and use of printed or internet resources)
• Speak with correct and more complex spoken grammar
• Participate in discussions and conversations in class

4. PRONUNCIATION

• Focus on specific vowels, consonants and word endings (with special focus on areas of difficulty, such as endings, consonant clusters, r/l, sh/ch, d/th, etc.)
• Speak with correct stress, intonation, and rhythm
Activities

- Listening to 30-minutes of news daily
- Regular group discussions of news events and issues
- Noting historical trends in news media influence
- Individual presentations
  - ex. an investigative report
  - ex. report of a life-shaping news story
- Group production of an ELI news program
- Optional trip to NEWSEUM in Washington DC
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