

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ الطَّاهِرِينَ

A Course in English

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**Imam Sadiq
University Press**

Title: A Course in English
Author: Mostafa Shahiditabar
Project manager and editor: Seyed Mohammad Reza Safavi, PhD
Page layout & cover designer: Mehdi Fatemi
Publisher: Imam Sadiq University Press
Compositor: Reza Diba
Print and Bindery: Sepidan Press
First Edition: 2018
Price: 20000 Rial
Tirage: 1000
ISBN: 978-600-214-58-57

Imam Sadiq University, Tehran, Iran(IR)
P.O.Box: 1465943681. **Tel:** +98 21 88370142, **Fax:** +98 21 88370142.
Online shopping: www.ketabesadiq.ir • **E-mail:** press@isu.ac.ir

Shahiditabar, Mostafa, 1982-
A Course in English/
Author: Mostafa Shahiditabar
Publisher: Imam Sadiq University Press, 2018.
195 p.
ISBN: 978-600-214-585-7
Added entry: Imam Sadiq University
Number National Library of Iran: 4985357

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A Course in English is a reading course book for students of English. The readings presented in this book encompass a wide range of topic, including greeting, IT, the Qur'an, critical thinking, languages, travel, Islamic architecture, IELTS, entrepreneur, Ashura literature, culture; etc, extracted from book chapters, newspaper articles, online references and discussions to enhance students' reading comprehension ability by increasing their vocabulary and improving their knowledge of word parts. To achieve this goal, readings based on the Islamic context of Iran were chosen by the author to meet the needs of today's English students.

The book contains 24 units. The general goals of each unit are listed at the beginning of each unit to draw students' attention to the main points on which they are expected to concentrate. Each unit starts with some warm-up questions followed by some pictures to elicit students' general information of the associated subject. Carefully-selected readings are used to be informative. They also serve as a source to present vocabulary and reading skills. After readings in each unit, Reading Skill Snapshot serves as an overview for practicing skimming and scanning. After the reading comprehension questions in each unit, Vocabulary Skill of each unit introduces skills as definition, word forms, synonyms versusonyms, affixes, phrasal verbs; etc, as well as some follow-up questions. After Vocabulary Skill, Reading Skill contains note taking, scanning, skimming, understanding main idea, supporting details, making inferences, pronoun reference etc as well as some follow up questions.

The book is intended to be useful as a textbook for a course on general English for both beginner and intermediate undergraduates, as well as functioning as a background to specific English; especially, students of Islamic studies, theology and other related majors.

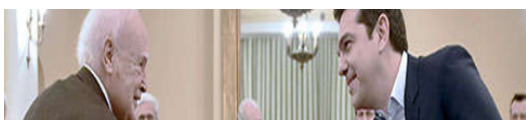
I would like to acknowledge members of English departments of Qur'an and Hadith University and Imam Sadiq University. I am also grateful to Dr. Ahmad Karimi to propose writing the book. I am immensely grateful to Dr. Seyed Mohammad Reza Safavi for advising the project and his comments on the earlier version of the book. I am also grateful to my dear colleague in Imam Sadiq University, Professor Farhad Morsali, for proofreading the book that greatly improved the manuscript.

Mehdi Fatemi did the painstaking work of preparing page layout and book cover design and Mr. Ehsanian read the passages and Majid Sarijaloo drew three caricatures of unit 4; I am appreciative of the diligence and care they took with them.

Finally, at Imam Sadiq University Press I would like to thank Dr. Adel Peyghami for his careful attention to the publication of the text book.



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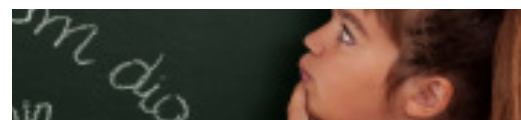
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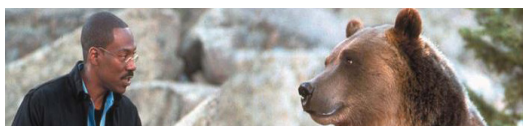
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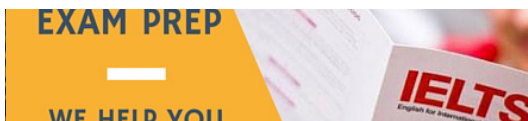
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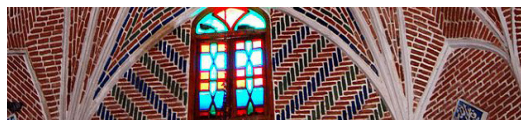
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Greeting



READING SKILLS

Taking notes

VOCABULARY SKILLS

Definition

BEFORE YOU READ:

A. Study these pictures and answer the questions below.

1. Which of the greetings do you mostly use?
2. How do you usually greet your friends?
3. How do you greet people in formal situations, such as a job interview?
4. Which of the greetings is the most formal? Which is the least formal?

**B. Answer the questions below.**

1. Read the title of the article and look at the pictures. What do you think the reading is about?
2. Read the first sentence in each paragraph. Now what do you think the reading is about?
3. Which of the sentences below describes the reading?

Skim the article and check (✓) your answer.

- ☐ It is an article about America. ☐ It is an English test. ☐ It is about greeting.



Reading Passage

Greeting

Greeting people can be difficult enough: Do you shake hands? Go in for a hug? But if you are in a new culture, meeting someone can turn into a completely difficult experience. Save yourself from shyness on your next trip and come prepared for an **appropriate** greeting. Here's the guide to greeting people in some countries and cultures around the world.

Zahra from Iran: handshake, Hug, Kiss

A firm handshake, a hug and a kiss among people of same sex are **common** ways of greeting in Iran. Handshake is common in formal situations while hugging and kissing are both common among friends and family members. Keep eye contact, and wait for older people to extend hand first.

Niccolo from Italy: shake hands and kiss

When you are introduced during a business or social meeting, shake hands with everyone present – even with children. Shake hands again when leaving. Ladies should extend their hand first. Friends may greet each other with a kiss.



Yuto from Japan: Bow

The bow is the standard greeting in Japan. Depending on situations, bows are different in duration and form.

Word Focus

appropriate = suitable

common = ordinary, usual

Reading Passage

Ahmad from the UAE: Touch noses

In the **UAE**, and a number of Persian Gulf countries, greeting **etiquette** isn't a handshake or a hug, but rather it's touching noses. While a kiss can be an **intimate** meeting but touching noses is very common.

How to greet in Islam

Use the “Salam” greeting when meeting a Muslim. Greet a Muslim as they would greet one another. If greeted with the Salam greeting, a Muslim will **respond** to a non-Muslim with the return greeting (“wa-Alaikumussalamwa-Rahmatullah”). Shake hands with male Muslims if you are male. It is common for Muslim men to shake hands. Do not shake hands with female Muslims if you are male.

NOTES:

Word Focus

UAE = United Arab Emirates

etiquette = good manners

intimate = familiar, close

respond = answer

After You Read:

Reading Skill Snapshot

Taking notes is writing a short written record that helps your remember something.

A. Note taking

Read the article again and take notes about greetings in the chart below.

Country/religion	Greeting in formal situations	Greeting in informal situations
Italy	Shake hand	Not mentioned
Iran		
Islam		

B. Further questions

Read the sentences and check (✓) True or False.
Then rewrite the false statements to make them true.

	True	False
1. Greeting is the same around the world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Niccolo shakes hand with only adults during a business meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The bow is the standard greeting among Muslims.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Kissing is very common in the UAE as a greeting etiquette.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. It is acceptable for younger Iranians to extend hand first in greetings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do not shake hands with female Muslims if you are male.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vocabulary Skill

Definition

According to Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary, definition is a statement giving the exact meaning of a word or phrase. For example: Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary provides following definition for ‘greeting’: the first words used when one sees somebody or writes to somebody.

Vocabulary Skill Practice

Match the words with their definitions.

a. greet	1. looking into one another’s eyes when talking
b. eye contact	2. to say hello to someone or welcome when meeting
c. ladies	3. man, gentleman
d. extend hand	4. tohold out your hand to someone so they can shake it as a greeting
e. male	5. women, females
f. respond	6. answer
g. common	7. close
h. intimate	8. usual

Reading Skill

Taking notes

According to Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary, note is a short written record to help your remember something. By taking notes, you record the essence of the information. Note taking also helps you understand where the ideas in the passage came from and how the writer thinks about those ideas.

Reading Skill Practice

Read the article again and take notes about greetings in different countries. Then, complete the chart.

Country/religion	Country/religion	Country/religion
Italy	<i>hand shake</i>	<i>bow</i>
Japan		
Persian Gulf Countries		

Information Technology



READING SKILLS

Scanning

VOCABULARY SKILLS

Definition

Word forms

BEFORE YOU READ:

A. Study the picture and answer the questions below.

1. What do you see in the picture?
2. What is Information Technology?.



B. Answer the questions below.

1. How old were you the first time you used each of these items?

- a. television
- b. internet
- c. telephones
- d. email.....
- e. telegram.....

2. Which of the sentences below describes the reading?

Skim the article and check (✓) your answer.

- ☐ It is an article about ICT. ☐ It is about ICDL. ☐ It is about IT.



Reading Passage

Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) is the application of computers and internet to store, **retrieve**, transmit, and **manipulate** information. IT is considered a part of information and communications technology (ICT) and has developed according to the needs.

It is worthwhile noting that the term IT is commonly used as a synonym for computers and computer networks, but it also **encompasses** other information distribution technologies such as television and telephones. Several industries are associated with information technology, including computer hardware, software, electronics, internet, **telecom** equipment, engineering, e-commerce, and computer services.



Thanks to the continuous development of computers, the original **computing** systems became mini-computers and later personal computers developed. Nowadays, mobile phones are taking power from the personal computer and computing is developing faster, becoming accessible more easily whenever needed.

Information technology has changed people and companies and has allowed digital technology to influence society and economy **alike**. It has formed societies and adapted itself to people's needs.

If you want a brief history of Information Technology, here is one. Humans were the first "computers". Then, machines were invented to **carry out** the **computational** tasks. Now these machines have given way to new form of information technology. A new development in IT is the consequence of the development in computing systems.

Word Focus

retrieve = recover

manipulate = control

encompass = include

telecom = communication over a distance by cable, telegraph, telephone

thanks to = because of

compute = calculate

alike = similar, also

carry out = do, perform

computational = using or relating to computers

Reading Passage

Humans have been storing, retrieving, **manipulating**, and communicating information since the Sumerians in Mesopotamia developed writing in about 3000 BC, but the term information technology in its modern **sense** first appeared in a 1958 article published in a Business journal; the authors said that “the new technology does not yet have a name. We shall call it information technology (IT).” Their definition consists of three categories: techniques for processing, the application of mathematical methods to decision-making, and the **simulation** of higher-order thinking through computer programs.



NOTES:

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Word Focus

- manipulate** = control
- sense** = meaning
- simulation** = imitation, copy

After You Read:

Reading Skill Snapshot

Scanning is a technique when one looks into a passage for searching some specific information.

A. Scanning for details

Read the article fast and try to look into it to complete the blank space.

- A: IT is the application of computers and internet to ...
store, retrieve, transmit, and manipulate information, often in the context of a business or other enterprise.
- B: Several industries are associated with IT, including ...
.....

B. Further questions

Read the sentences and check (✓) True or False.
Then rewrite the false statements to make them true.

	True	False
1. IT is a part of ICT.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. IT has an emphasis on society but not economy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Societies have shaped Information Technology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Human and computers are alike in history.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. IT first appeared since the Sumerians.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. According to the authors of the article published in a Business journal, IT had one established name.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>