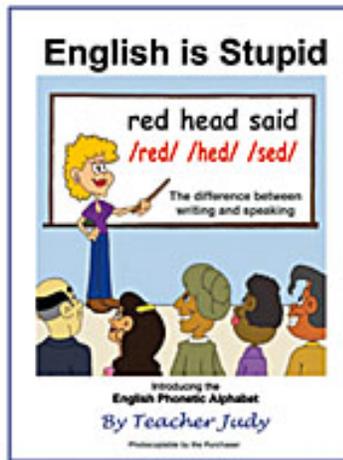


English is Stupid



Whether you are learning it, teaching it, or English is your first language, ***English is Stupid*** provides a fascinating expose on the mechanics of how Spoken English works. Six rules of spoken English are simple and absolute. ***English is Stupid*** is absorbing to those who are native speakers of English and critical for those who aren't.

There are six chapters, one for every element of the speaking skill. The format is a working textbook with notes and answers on the left-hand side for teachers, and lessons and exercises on the facing pages for students. It is assumed students will read the teacher's side, and if they can grasp it – more power to them.

Chapter One addresses the disassociation between letters and sounds in English. It includes a functional phonetic alphabet – the first one ever to exist.

Chapter Two identifies English as a *stress-based* as opposed to sound-based language. It highlights the significance of *stress* and how it is created.

Chapter Three releases students from the burden of perfect grammar. They learn that important words carry the day and are all that is required to participate effectively in discourse.

Chapter Four begins to deal with the abstract nature of English. Speaking is lazy, and word breaks occur independently of how words are printed. More than half the words that learners hear can't be found in a dictionary. (*Whadazat mean?*)

Chapter Five lays grammar in its final resting place. Grammar is linear, but English is idiomatic. Students learn that English is composed of thousands of fixed groups of words that suggest images. The 'collocation' paradigm answers why there is no such thing as 'Merry Birthday' and how 'a stitch in time' means prevention.

Chapter Six on non-verbal communication deals with the significance of culturally appropriate gestures and the use of voice qualities to convey over 80% of native speaker's messages. The power of body language dwarfs all other aspects of speaking combined.

The book is rife with anecdotes and examples and the tone is light and easy to follow. With this text as a guide, every academic level can learn the speaking principles and floodgates open to a new-found sense of understanding, community, self-expression, productivity and belonging.