

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA TOR VERGATA

Faculty of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences

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**Course Textbook**

**SCIENCE IN THE NEWS** (Authentic Readings in English for Students of Science and Pharmacy) by C. Chapman, V. Cockburn, D. Sturino

Rubbettino Editore

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Being the language used throughout the world for scientific communication, a knowledge of English is essential for research and scientific studies. Every conference, seminar and scientific publication is in English and English is the language used in every international laboratory.

It is therefore important that students, in whatever field of study they choose to study, have a proficient understanding of the English language.

The student of Science needs to be able to read scientific texts in English in order to carry out research activity in general as well as in international laboratories.

Furthermore, he/she requires the capability to communicate with colleagues in other countries, to read their publications and to write publications to be read by them.

“Science in the News” is a collection of authentic material taken from magazines and newspapers ( including the Herald tribune, USA Today, New Scientist, Popular Scientist, Time, Science, National Geographic and Scientific American Newsweek), to teach English at the Faculty of Science and dealing with a variety of topics related to the world of science. The texts aim at helping students to develop their reading skills and expand their vocabulary, while increasing their knowledge of more complex language structures.

Students are taught to understand the general meaning of a text followed by a more in-depth understanding that ensures that they have fully understood the content of the article. Vocabulary building help the student develop a more extensive lexis and time will be spent on a variety of exercises (antonyms, synonyms, word formation, prefixes and suffixes, etc.). Language skills, including work on various structures and grammar also an integral part of the course.

This textbook also includes an appendix section at the back of the book.

Appendix A, as well as providing possibilities for class discussion, also contains research tasks and reinforcement activities through the use of extra material.

Appendix B is a reference section and it includes: irregular verbs, phrasal verbs, false cognates - cohesion devices - words and phrases connecting one idea to another, suffixes and prefixes, hyphenations, numbers, fractions and decimals, mathematical expressions, metric system, temperature equivalents.

BIOLOGY by Campbell and Reece (Sixth Edition) (for reference only) – Includes on-line course and instructor

Editor Benjamin and Cummings

ISBN 0-8053-6624-5

[www.aw.com/bc](http://www.aw.com/bc)

## **Grammar**

**Essential Grammar in Use** - Grammatica di base della lingua inglese. (con soluzioni). Terza Edizione. **Raymond Murphy** con Lelio Pallini . (Cambridge) CD included. (elementary)

This grammar book covers basic English grammar. Each unit covers 2 pages. The page on the left provides grammatical information, while exercises can be found on the right page. The appendices are not to be ignored (they can be found at the end of the book) Following the appendices, from page 260-279 there are a number of supplementary exercises for revision.

**Dizionario** il Ragazzini 2008 inglese-italiano italiano-inglese by Giuseppe ragazzini (complete with CD). Editore Zanichelli

## **Internet**

There are numerous sites on the internet - Newsweek, the Ecologist, the Telegraph and the Mail, the BBC, science daily (to name just a few) with interesting and readable articles, not forgetting **Wikipedia encyclopaedia** which is recommended. It also has the advantage that texts can be translated into Italian.

**Internet course** The BBC offers an interesting and informative on-line course at [www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish)

## **Examination**

The examination in English at the Faculty of Sciences MFN is a written exam consisting of a text which is to be read without the aid of a dictionary. Exercises include understanding of vocabulary, reference words, true or false statements, 4 sentences giving an opinion about related subject and a cloze test. Students are given one and a half hours to complete the exam. The student is required to have a satisfactory understanding of text content and vocabulary and a proficient knowledge of English grammar and structure. An examination pass confers an “pass” equivalent to 17/30. In order to take the exam the student must enrol on-line on the site <http://delphi.uniroma2.it>

**\* Students are required to buy the course book and the grammar book prior to the beginning of the course.**

**Further material** can be found at the **FOCAL POINT** in file “Alison Inglis – 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.”