

## **PREFACE**

Higher Education through distant learning methods is increasingly gaining popularity. Experts connected with the open university system in this country and abroad would confirm this.

Netaji Subhas Open University has been set up with the specific object of making educational opportunities easily accessible to all sections of the population who are interested in higher education but could not, for some reason or other, be the beneficiary of the same. Accordingly, several methods are being adopted to provide the intending students maximum possible exposure to various courses through home study. Self-learning study materials are a useful element of this kind of instruction—apart from contact programmes, interactions with academic counsellors, projects work and audio-video programmes.

Preparing study materials in a lucid form that conforms to the different intellectual abilities of the students is certainly not an easy job. It calls for continuous and critical attention of subject experts to convert existing knowledge into simple and concise study packages.

To that end the experiments of the Indira Gandhi National Open University have been a pace-setter. Since Netaji Subhas Open University would like to impart training mostly through regional language, the task of transcreating these materials, involves a lot of complexity. However, we are happy that in the course of the first phase of our efforts we have gained sufficient insight to make some headway. This has been possible mainly due to the untiring efforts of experts engaged in the process in the capacity of course planners, study unit writers, content-and-copy editors and so on. Regular monitoring and technical guidance of the members of the Advisory Committee of the University has been of immense help in this connection.

Even then the entire work has gone on an experimental basis and may suffer from a number of unintended shortcomings. It will be our sincere efforts to regularly improve the quality of the study materials. In the meantime our efforts will be amply rewarded if the study materials meet the requirements of the learners to a significant extent.

**Professor (Dr.) Subha Sankar Sarkar**  
Vice-Chancellor

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The Present block owes its shape to the concerted efforts of the following experts.

1. Prof. Mihir Bhattacharya, Jadavpur University
2. Dr. Tirthankar Chattopadhyay, Kalyani University
3. Dr. Deepak Das, Maulana Azad College
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For the second printing extensive revision has been done by Sri Subhramsu Maitra

**Professor (Dr.) Debesh Roy**  
Registrar

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**Professor (Dr.) Debesh Roy**  
Registrar



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

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The Foundation Course in English (I) is assigned four credits and requires about 120 hours of study on your part. Its objective is to improve your proficiency in English by developing your skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The Course is divided into four blocks of six units each. The first four units in each block deal with (i) reading comprehension, (ii) vocabulary, (iii) grammar and usage, and (iv) writing. The last two units deal with listening and speaking. Each unit is divided into sections and sub-sections. We begin each unit with a Statement of objectives to indicate what we expect you to achieve through the unit. There are exercises in each section of the unit, which you must do. You should then check your answers with those given by us at the end of the unit.

There will be some assignments based on this course. After you have completed an assignment, you should send your response sheets to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you. These will be evaluated by the Counsellor and returned to you with his/her comments. The units on listening and speaking have cassette recordings to accompany them. You can get them on payment of a nominal charge and listen to the recorded materials.

Alternatively, you can listen to them at the study centre allotted to you. For permission to reproduce copyright materials included in Block 1 we are grateful to the following :

1. The Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau for the passage from Subhas Ch. Bose, *An Indian Pilgrim*.
2. Publications Division, Government of India, for the passage from Indira Gandhi's address at 'the U.N. Conference on Human Environment, Stockholm, June 1972, taken from *The Years of Endeavour: Selected Speeches of Indira Gandhi* (August 1969-August 1972).
3. Oxford University Press, New Delhi for 'Death in the Kitchen' by Milward Kennedy, from *Tales of Crime and Detection* : (Sunbird Readers, Grade 3).
4. Oxford University Press, New Delhi for the passage from Jim Corbett: *Man-Eaters of Kumaon*.
5. Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad, and Orient Longman Ltd., Hyderabad for the passage on 'The Scientific Method' from *A Preparatory General English Course for Colleges: Physical Sciences*.

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## INTRODUCTION TO BLOCK 1

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Block 1 has six units.

Units 1-4 deal with

1. Reading Comprehension
2. Vocabulary
3. Grammar and Usage
4. Writing

Units 5-6 deal with

1. Listening Comprehension
2. Conversation
3. Pronunciation

For practice in reading comprehension we have set passages, both narrative and expository, from modern English writers. There are also exercises on vocabulary based on the passages, read.

The grammatical items presented in this block are:

1. Concord of number and person
2. Use to tense : Definite (simple past)
  - past continuous
  - present perfect
  - present perfect continuous
  - past perfect

Exercises have been set to give you practice in writing short compositions-speeches, paragraphs and stories based on the passages read.

For practice in listening comprehension the texts used are recording of a news bulletin and a talk. We have also given you the texts of some dialogues and discussions as models for study and these relate to both informal and formal situations. Exercise have been set to give practice in the composition of dialogues relating to particular situations.

To help you acquire correct pronunciation we have shown how English letters do not always correspond to the sounds used, and have also dealt with some important aspects of pronunciation like word stress and the English vowel system.