
Book Review

Therapy Care: An English Course for Therapists

Jim Smiley, Michiyo Masui, & Tomoaki Asano. Perceptia Press. 2014. (91 pages). ISBN 4-939130-63-2 Price: ¥2,160

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Health professionals must possess above-average communication skills in order to accurately assess patients' needs and provide personalized on-going care. This is especially true of occupational and physical therapists who often work with patients over extended periods of time and continually modify their treatment plans as their patients' conditions change. Communicating effectively and accurately in a health care setting is usually a challenge under any circumstances but can be particularly difficult when the therapist needs to do so in a second language. For this reason, it is helpful for both teachers and students of English to have access to quality materials specific to their needs.

While there are many English for Specific Purposes (ESP) textbooks that provide instruction for medical professionals, *Therapy Care: An English Course for Therapists* is unique in its focus on the vocabulary and situations most encountered by physical and occupational therapists in the Japanese context. The text is divided into 12 core units as well as an additional vocabulary chapter. Each core unit is centered on a theme such as The Workplace, Measurement, and Posture, and contains an introduction, listening, speaking, reading, vocabulary review, and case study sections. Exercises in each section are consistent throughout the units. Instructions for each exercise are given in both English

and Japanese. The vocabulary chapter at the end of the book also contains 12 units that focus on the words that physical and occupational therapists might encounter most often in their practice including anatomical terms, descriptors of movement, as well as physical and emotional states. Each term in these units is presented in a list in both English and Japanese, which is followed by two vocabulary memorization games. Audio downloads for the text can be found on the publisher's Web site (www.perceptiapress.com). Teachers' resources are not available online but are provided by direct request to the publisher.

Therapy Care: An English Course for Therapists possesses several unique characteristics that make it a good choice for tertiary-level English courses for therapists in the Japanese context. First, the textbook is well organized and follows a clear pattern in presenting the material and the activities used to practice it. These attributes can make lesson planning simple for teachers and allow students, especially ones not confident in their English-language skills, to adequately prepare for classes. In addition, the sections in each unit progress from passive activities involving listening and reading to active output in both spoken and written form. Furthermore, activities in the text often allow students to practice speaking using fixed dialogues before providing opportunities to ad lib using the language learned. In Japanese university classrooms, cultural factors may inhibit students from actively participating and taking chances with language production. For this reason, the progressive format of the exercises in this text might be helpful in affectively scaffolding students towards greater confidence and usage of the target language. Finally, the authors do a good job of making sure that each activity is related to the situations and vocabulary therapists may encounter in their jobs once they graduate. Especially interesting is the inclusion of a case study section at the end of each unit that allows students to integrate skills they have learned in their content classes with their English study.

Despite these positives, there are some areas where the text could be improved. While the consistency and repetition of the exercises in each unit can be seen as a positive in some respects, it also increases the chances of the material becoming repetitive for both teachers and students as the semester

progresses. This could increase the workload for teachers as they struggle to develop supplementary exercises to support the text. Furthermore, the Japanese translation of the instructions provided at the beginning of each exercise can be useful, but since the same exercises are used in each unit, it would be more effective to phase out this scaffolding after the first couple of units. The vocabulary units at the end of the book provide students with a number of useful terms for their profession. However, these vocabulary items are not integrated into the theme-based units, denying students the opportunity to see how these terms could be used in context. In addition, the inclusion of more visuals in these units would be helpful in increasing students' understanding of the vocabulary, as many of the terms refer to anatomy and movement. Finally, while the inclusion of case studies at the end of each unit allows students to integrate their therapy and English skills in an activity, the exercises seem rather formulaic to be used in every chapter of the book. These sections could be improved if later units encouraged students to role play the interaction between patient and therapist and create more in-depth treatment plans for the patients.

Therapy Care: An English Course for Therapists is a highly specialized textbook that will be helpful to teachers of English as a foreign-language (EFL) in vocational, college, and university programs focusing on the teaching of occupational and physical therapies. As a whole, the authors do a good job in aligning the activities in the text with the needs of future therapists, and providing scaffolding that will be beneficial specifically to Japanese learners. However, the textbook could be vastly improved through the inclusion of more varied and challenging exercises. In addition, vocabulary units should be integrated into the themed units, and students would benefit from the inclusion of visuals to support the learning of the terms presented in these units. Despite these limitations, *Therapy Care: An English Course for Therapists* fills a gap in the current selection of textbooks for ESP, and will be a welcome addition for both students and teachers in therapy programs in Japan.

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