



Opinion Zone

Making sense of opinions

Most language teachers accept that students learn best when they are involved in purposeful activity with the target language. This requires both good linguistic models and tasks which promote communication using those models. **Opinion Zone** is a new type of easy-to-use multimedia resource CD-ROM which fulfils these requirements: it exposes learners to authentic language with all its hesitations, self-corrections, syntactic slips and reliance on idioms, and it offers a wealth of student activities in form of exercises, group work, role play, and reporting.



Available on CD-ROM in both single-user and network versions

Opinion Zone titles deal with the language of expressing opinions. Each title is built around a studio debate. The topics of these debates vary from banning handguns to the power of the press. **Opinion Zone** titles are not intended to be self-contained courses; rather, they are classroom resources. The character of **Opinion Zone** as a resource CD-ROM means that it is not tied to any particular teaching methodology but offers material which can be mixed and matched to support many teaching and learning styles.

Level: lower intermediate to advanced. Nearly one hour of authentic video and audio material. Many hours of student activities.
Recommended machine specification: IBM-compatible PC (486/66 or Pentium) Windows 3.1 or 3.11 with 8 MB of RAM or Windows 95/98/NT4 with 16 MB of RAM. Four speed or faster CD-ROM drive, Soundblaster compatible audio card with loudspeakers or headphones. Video card and monitor with at least 256 colours.

There are two new ways to access the video material. Easy to use segment buttons offer random access to any segment of the discussion. Or you can access all the material person by person via cue cards. To play the opinions of one person you click the face. If you click the profile, you hear a paraphrase of the answer delivered clearly in a standard English accent. Where there are separate questions, you click the question cards to hear them.

Support is offered at a variety of levels; **Opinion Zone** includes complete transcripts of all the audio material, on-line glossary, and TOD (Teacher-On-Demand) who pops up when necessary to give advice, explain and add extra knowledge.



Opinion Zone titles are based on the idea that learners must learn to cope with authentic idiomatic language if they are to become communicatively competent. To help them, **Opinion Zone** videos are supported with transcripts, paraphrases, comments and a glossary they can refer to as and when necessary.

Another key element of **Opinion Zone** is the collection of student activities comprising both integrated exercises and printable worksheets. These are designed to consolidate the language learned and guide students towards a more creative and independent use of the language. Ready-made exercises span a full range from simple language auditing tasks making sure that students have recognized the form of language correctly to open, group-oriented tasks with student presentations and role play.

Opinion Zone includes exercises from simple language auditing to group activities:

Gapfill: type in the missing word or words using the Listen and Spell buttons for help if necessary

Reporting: make either written or spoken reports based on the video input

Role play: take part in the classroom debate having first prepared a role using video material and ready-made texts

Peer teaching: watch through the video material carefully making notes on the important comments and then teach the new language to the other students

Clicking the **Teacher's Zone** label in the main menu gives access the teacher's material, users' results and names, and the settings of the program.

The teacher's material includes background information on how to use **Opinion Zone** as a classroom resource, transcripts of all video and audio material, ready-to-use task sheets, learning review sheet, and keys to all exercises. All the teacher's material can be printed out.

Opinion Zone has been designed for use with business people and students. It has been assumed that they have an intermediate or advanced level of proficiency in general English.

Titles available today:

- OZ 1 Gun Law
- OZ 2 European Union
- OZ 3 No more Roads?

