

Lingonet Streetwise

Learning a new language is an art. It has been estimated that a native speaker is exposed to over 25,000 words in his/her own language daily. This means that he/she sees or hears the most frequently used words many times a day in the correct environment. That is why it goes without saying that it is nearly impossible for an adult learning English to achieve the linguistic level of a native speaker. New learning materials, however, offer entirely new possibilities for the language learner which will help him/her achieve an adequate level of language use.

Lingonet began developing the *Streetwise* program as a listening and vocabulary exercise in response to students who wanted to hear different people who speak everyday language. Students notice that they quickly get used to their teacher's and classmates' pronunciation, but they do not want to panic when talking to a stranger. *Streetwise* is specifically designed for self-paced independent study.

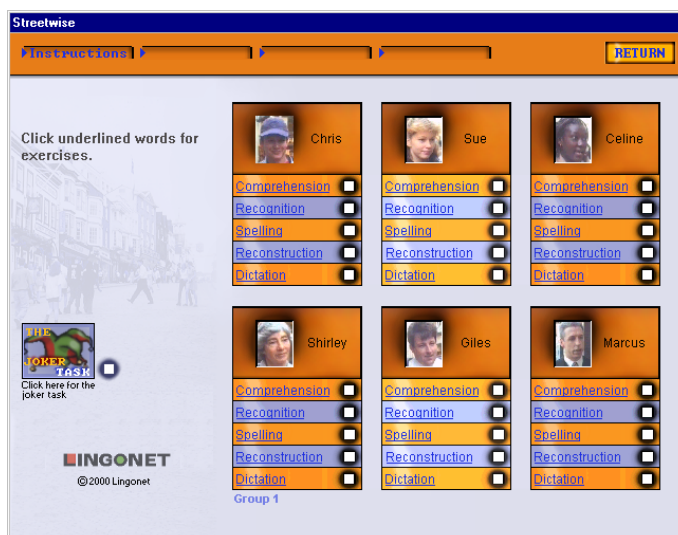
Streetwise is built around 36 short video interviews done on the streets of Cambridge, England. The interviews last between 30 seconds and three minutes, and passers-by answer interesting questions without using a script.

In the program, each interview has a similar series of exercises built around it; this will direct the student to work actively with authentic language. The structure of each exercise is always the same and, thereby, both the student and the teacher can tell immediately what they must do.

Each interview is examined in five parts. These parts are accessed from the group screen. In each group screen, there is a menu with six people and, in conjunction with each person, five exercises.



Group icon on the first page



Group screen

1. The student's first task is to listen to the interviewee's response and identify the topic discussed from five options. The program will give hints in order to direct the student to the correct answer if he/she can't deduce it at first. In the exercise screen, the student also has access to a studio recording of the interviewee's response paraphrased using clear language.
2. In the second exercise, the student must listen to the interviewee's response again and find the one word from the five given that is not in the response.
3. In the third exercise, the student must pay attention to the vocabulary and write down four semi-difficult words after hearing them. The program will spell the words out letter by letter if necessary.
4. In the fourth exercise, there is a group of speech bubbles; by clicking on the bubbles, the student will hear five words. These words form an expression which was in the original interview. The student should first listen to all the words and then to the interviewee's response as many times as it takes for him/her to get the words in the correct order.
5. The fifth exercise is a traditional dictation exercise. Thanks to the computer, the student can work at his/her own pace, listen to it several times and check the answers him/herself. Each dictation is based on the studio-recorded paraphrases of the interviewees' responses.

While testing *Streetwise*, users have commented that it offers an intense learning experience where the student feels that he/she is working hard the whole time to improve his/her language skills.