

## BUSINESS TERRITORY 1

*Business Territory 1* (Lingonet) is a CD-ROM which gives students access to authentic English monologues through video and audio. The package is easy even for the “technologically challenged” to use, although students and teachers who are totally unfamiliar with computers will need some initial guidance before they can exploit *Business Territory 1* fully.

The package focuses on a real British company, located in Cambridge, and contains input from a range of employees including a technical manager, a secretary, an operational managing director and a security officer. Students are exposed to a variety of accents and structures and common ‘business’ vocabulary.

While advertised as suitable for lower-intermediate to advanced level learners, the material would, I believe, present difficulties for students below upper-intermediate level. Some vocabulary tasks are appropriate for intermediate level learners whilst some of the cloze exercises are advanced level. Because there is no labelled grading of different tasks, teachers with lower level classes would have to spend some time and effort selecting suitable material from the package.

The package is innovative in its support for teachers. There are clear and plentiful notes for teachers to refer to, including sample lesson plans, worksheets that can be downloaded and ideas for written follow-up tasks. These are accessed through the password-protected Teacher’s Territory. The group-work tasks, such as preparing and giving presentations or drawing up organograms based on the input they have received about the company, are particularly valuable.

*Business Territory 1* is flexible in allowing for use by a teacher-led class or by individual learners at home or in self-access facilities. As well as tapescripts and vocabulary explanations there are paraphrased versions of the monologues for those who cannot follow the original video material. It would, perhaps, be more flexible if learners had the choice of accessing the tapescripts during the recordings. While language is modelled, more guidance with phonology (such as marked word stress) would also be of use.

The presentation of the package is attractive, although I personally found the choice of colours and desert landscape perplexing when related to a British company environment. It also might be more relevant if the recordings included dialogues as well as monologues. The authentic monologues are, however, stimulating and relevant to students connected to a modern business or working environment.

My overall reaction to the CD-ROM is positive. This is a package that higher-level company students, learners in a Business English group or those interested in learning about business in Britain will enjoy using. I recommend it to modern English language institutes as a valuable resource.

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