

## RULES: Rules for Using Linguistic Elements of Speech

Reviewed by Rhonda J. Banford, MAT, CCC-SLP

If you have English second language learners on your caseload who can speak the language but have difficulty making themselves understood, consider *RULES: Rules for Using Linguistic Elements of Speech*. Authors Marjorie Feinstein-Whittaker, MS, CCC-SLP, and Lynda Katz Wilner, MS, CCC-SLP, have written a complete program to teach the idiosyncratic rules of American English.

The program includes a teaching manual, CDs for group instruction with exercise and answer keys, student workbooks, and optional audio CDs that address target concepts, models of stimulus words, and sentences for independent practice.

The 23 chapters of rules and practice activities address stress and intonation, pronunciation and grammar. An explanation of each target concept is followed by lists of practice words, phrases and sen-

tences designed to help adults in their social lives, at home, and in the workplace.

The explanations are concise and easy to understand. The lists of useful, up-to-date terms pertain to topics such as travel, computers, finance, sporting events, restaurants, clothing and the weather. An introductory reading passage can be recorded, used to compare pre- and post-training speech production, and scored to determine which targets need intervention.

The authors usually succeed in their effort to simplify the complex and seemingly idiosyncratic rules of pronunciation and prosody. However, there are some contrivances in our language that are so difficult to understand that it is easier to memorize



individual words than to formulate a rule. Fortunately, the authors provide plenty of practice material for memorization.

Unless the student has someone to practice with consistently who can act as an appropriate speech model, the CDs are a worthwhile investment.

The time investment to learn the program is minimal, the materials are user-friendly, and the RULES program has everything you need for accent modification classes or individual sessions. ■

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*The book is available from ESL RULES LLC, online: [www.eslrules.com](http://www.eslrules.com). Price: \$149.95.*

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