

# REVIEW CÁC ĐẦU SÁCH CHUYÊN KHẢO MÔN TIẾNG ANH

## WORKSHOP HÀNH TRANG SLÃY 10 CHUYÊN

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## 1. Cambridge English Advanced & Cambridge English Proficiency Series

Published by Cambridge University Press, this series of books is suitable for those who aspire to compete in prestigious English competitions in their high school years.

These books are CAE & CPE practice tests with answers at the back, and typically you can find 4 practice tests in a book. This series of books is for the CAE & CPE test (C1 & C2), which is also the level of English competitions in Vietnam. Moreover, many parts of the test in English competitions follow closely to the exercises found in the book. Some examples are MCQs, Gapped text and Multiple matching in the Reading section; Guided cloze, Open cloze, Word formation and Sentence transformation in the Use of English section; and Multiple choice and Multiple matching in the Listening section. While doing the full test would build all your skills together, the often tight schedule of English competition means that there would usually not be enough time to do that. Another tip would be seeking out CAE & CPE books in general, not just from Cambridge.

There is one very obvious positive for you to consider taking this up: the number of books in this series. However, you should also consider that because these books consist of only practice exercises without any provision of theory, you should combine this with another theory-based approach for the best result.

## 2. The Destination Series - Malcolm Mann, Steve Taylore-Knowles

Written by Malcolm Mann and Steve Taylore-Knowles and published by Macmillan, this book is useful for building up your grammar and vocabulary, even if you have no plans to go abroad or participate in competitions.

The book is divided into units, and while the specific organization is dependent on the book in the series, all of them would include both vocabulary and grammar units interwoven. The unit would focus on one specific point, for example, on the present tenses, or travel and transport. In the grammar units, there will first be an explanation of the concepts/grammar points in that unit, and then a wide range of exercises to consolidate them, from multiple-choice questions to sentence rewrite. The following vocabulary unit will provide you with topical words, phrasal verbs, phrases, word forms and more;



while solidifying the grammar knowledge from the preceding unit. At the end of one set of units, there would be a revision of all the information in the aforementioned units, and there would also be a revision test for each half of the book.

There are different levels of the book on offer, ranging from B1 to C2. For English majors, you should start at B2.

This series is a great vocabulary foundation-builder, and it would be of much help regardless of the path you decide on. However, do note that it is not suited for intensively preparing you for a specific test/exam/competition. Also, because time is at a premium in high school and you will have to balance between a whole load of things, you may want to consider focusing on other more specific books.

### **3. The English Vocabulary in Use Series - Michael McCarthy, Felicity O'Dell & Stuart Redman**

Again, published by Cambridge, this series of books is not just about learning words but also about everything related to vocabulary, such as word formation, pronunciation, and usage in different contexts.

The book is first divided into big topics that serve as overarching themes, such as *Work and Study*, and subsequently divided into smaller units, e.g. *Applying for a job*, or *Job interviews*. All the units are two pages long and can be completed in an afternoon, with one theory page and one corresponding exercise page. The theory page shows the meanings of words and also puts them into sentences or paragraphs to show their context. Meanwhile, the exercises are widely varied, ranging from answering questions, matching, to correcting the wrong usage of words.

Overall, the vocabulary these books provide will provide a great basis for you to hone other skills in English. Another benefit of the series is its specificity, with clear definitions and examples to illustrate how they are used. However, you should tackle these books to aid acquisition, retention and recall; otherwise, the book series alone will not increase your vocabulary that much.