

# Textbooks – a problem?



# Coursebook evaluation

What are the advantages of  
using a textbook?

# Advantages

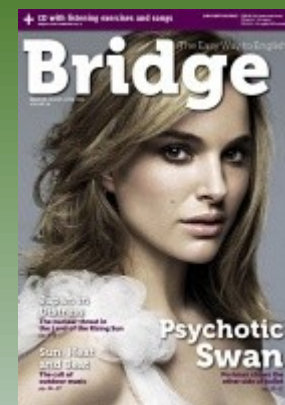
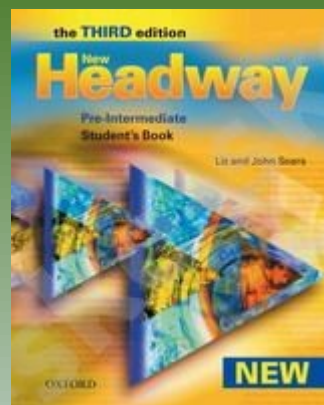
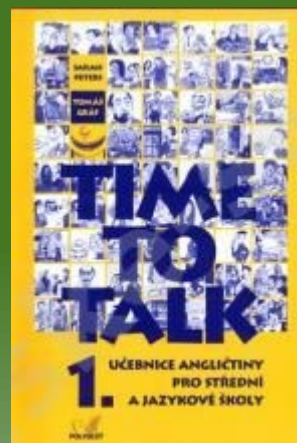
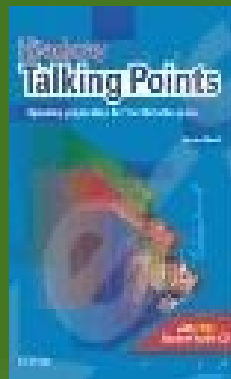
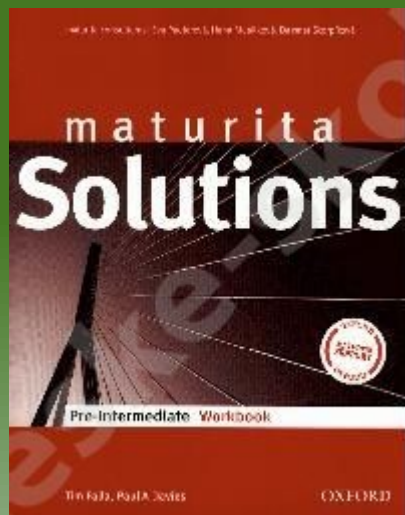
- It provides:
  - a syllabus
  - security for the students
  - a set of visuals, activities, readings ...
  - assessing tools (tests, evaluation tools)
  - consistency within a given level

- It may include supporting materials:
  - teacher's guide
  - cassettes, CDs
  - video
  - worksheets ...

# Disadvantages

- The content may not be appropriate to your group
- The content may not be at the right level
- Some aspects of language may be preferred while others not
- There may not be the right mix of activities
- The activities may be boring
- The material may go out of date
- The timetable for completing the textbook may be unrealistic

# Textbooks to compare



Think of a textbook you were  
satisfied with.



Think of a textbook you **were not**  
satisfied with.

What were the differences?

# Criteria for coursebook evaluation:

- Price and availability
- Add-ons and extras
- Layout and design
- Instructions
- Methodology
- Syllabus
- Language skills
- Topics
- Cultural appropriacy
- Teacher's guide

# Price and availability

- a teacher's book, workbook, audio-cassette or CD, even video-cassette
- How much will the student have to pay?
- And how much the teacher?

# Add-ons and extras

- Flash-cards or the pictures, maps, posters
- Websites
- Discussion pages
- Is it worth the value (time and money)?

# Layout and design

- attractive and challenging ?
  - pictures, colours
- 
- Do I as a teacher like the design of the book?
  - Does it look like cheap commerce?

# Instructions

- In English or in Czech?
- Are they clear and brief?
- Will students understand without teacher's help?

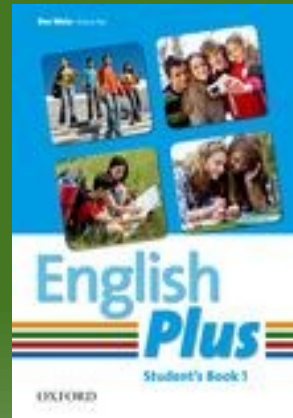
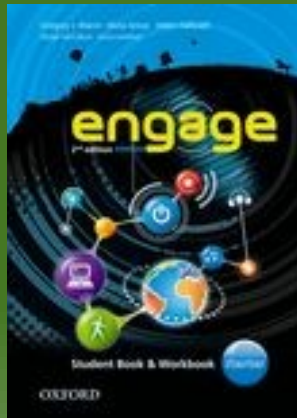


# Methodology

- Adequate to the age and the level of my students
- balance between accuracy and fluency exercises
- More acquisition or more learning and teaching?

# Syllabus

- the topics of my students' interest?
- logical sequence of topics?
- the expected amount of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation?



# Textbooks for teenagers

# Language skills

- all skills covered in balance?
- challenging activities offered?
- open-ended and close-ended tasks?
- natural spoken English?

# Topics

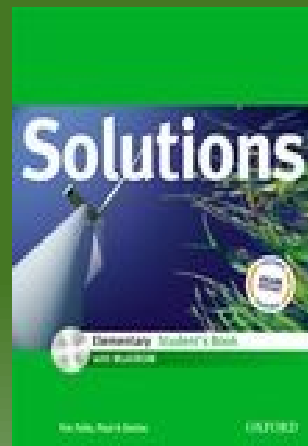
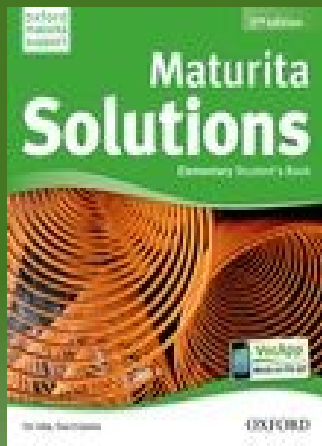
- a variety of topics?
- adequate to the level and interest of my students?
- other subjects integrated, too?

# Cultural appropriacy

- Any multicultural items?
- Unprejudiced?
- Enrich my students' worldview?

# Teacher's guide

- Answers for my students' curious questions?
- differentiated activities for a heterogeneous class?
- Help with my lesson and syllabus planning?

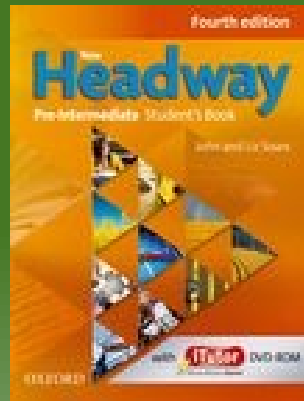
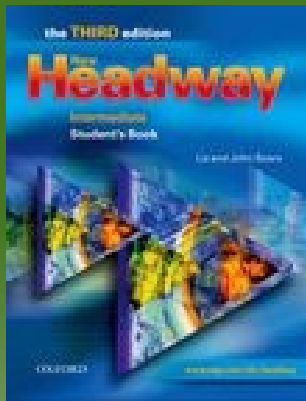


**Aim - e.g. Maturita exam**



# Other factors to consider:

- Context (your institution, parents ...)
- Your beliefs
- Your understandings about how people learn languages
- Your students' needs and interests
- You as a teacher



**Secondary and language schools**

An ideal coursebook does not  
exist.

Bring additional materials!

# Supplementary materials

- **Books, magazines**
- **Pictures, posters, maps and cards**
- **Real authentic material**
- **Toys**
- **Visualizers**
- **Video equipment and data-projector**
- **Audio equipment**
- **Musical instruments**
- **Smart or interactive boards**
- **Computer!**

# Options:

projects,

film making,

theatre performances,

online homework ...