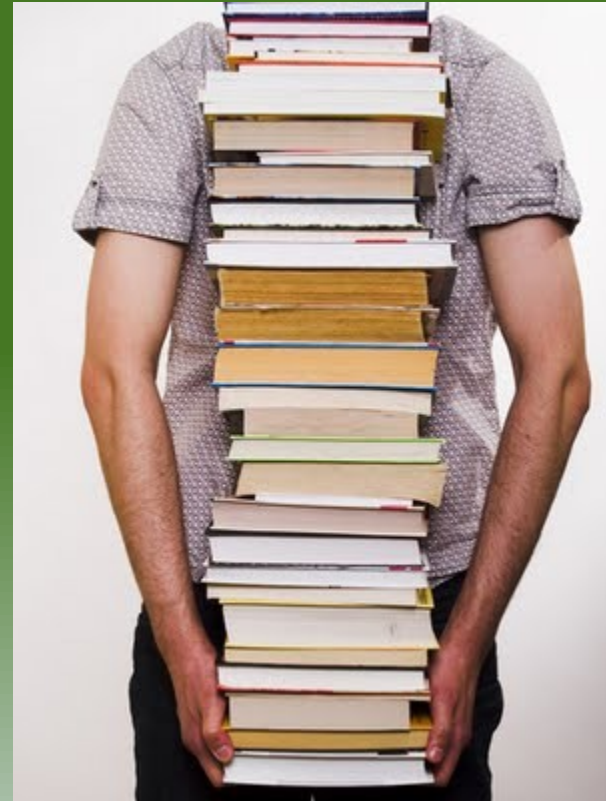


Textbooks – a problem?



Coursebook evaluation

What are the advantages of
using a textbook?

Advantages

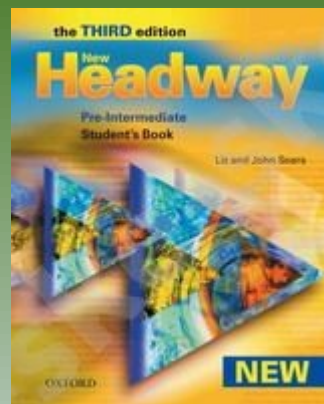
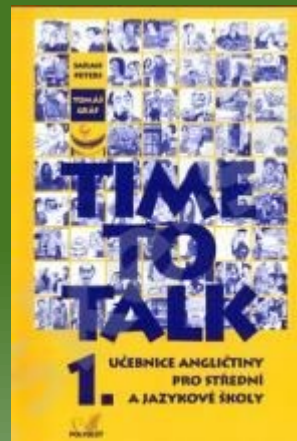
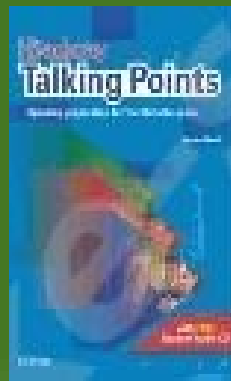
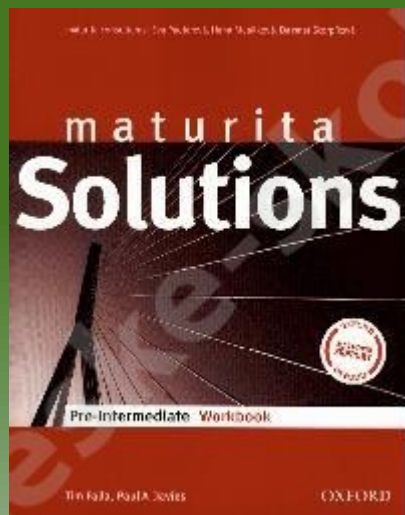
- It provides:
 - a syllabus
 - security for the students
 - a set of visuals, activities, readings ...
 - assessing tools (tests, evaluation tools)
 - consistency within a given level

- 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- The material may go out of date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

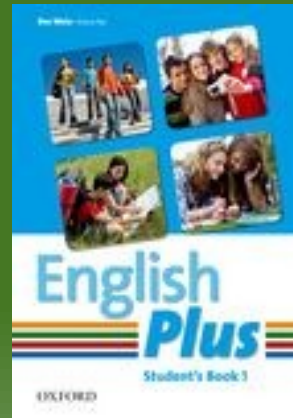
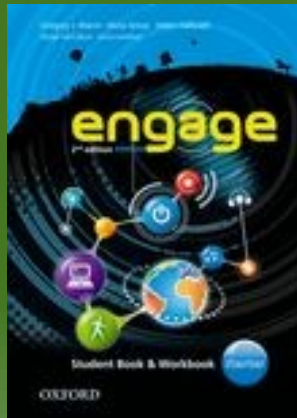
- In English or in Czech?
- Are they clear and brief?
- Will students understand without teacher's help?

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

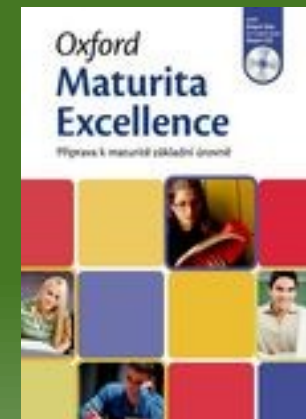
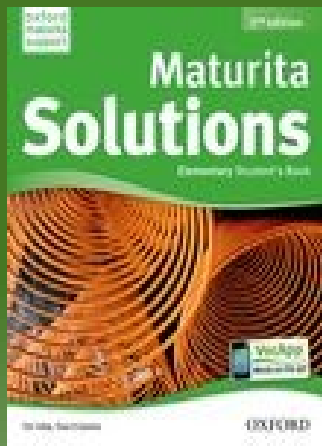
- a variety of topics?
- adequate to the level and interest of my students?
- other subjects integrated, too?

Cultural appropriacy

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

Teacher's guide

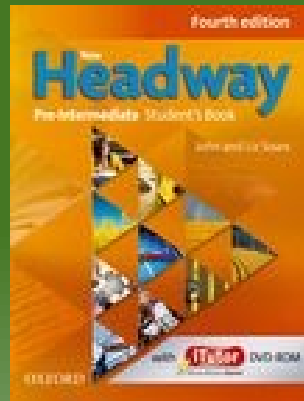
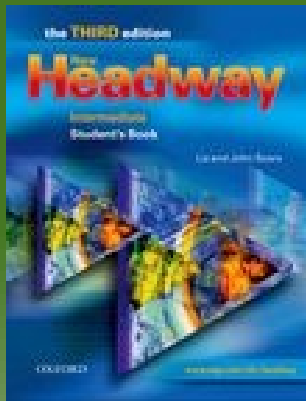
- Answers for my students' curious questions?
- differentiated activities for a heterogeneous class?
- Help with my lesson and syllabus planning?



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 ...