What’s New in This Edition?

Every unit in Reader’s Choice, 5th Edition, has been updated and contains new material:

Globalization and Identity. The fifth edition of Reader’s Choice engages complex issues of identity particularly within our increasingly globalized world. Whether reading about language policy or international business or fiction highlighting multiculturalism, the activities in Reader’s Choice, 5th Edition, create the linguistic and intellectual scaffolding that encourages meaningful interactions about our complex world. Even technical material includes thoughtful activities that place technology and science within a social context.

Visual Literacy: Students in the twenty-first century are confronted with a dizzying array and combination of print and graphics. The average commercial web page, for example, contains more links to information than does the table of contents of the average ESOL textbook. Throughout this edition are activities that develop strategies for gleaning information from combinations of text and graphics. This is especially true in the Web Work.

Web Work. Extensive Web Work appears in two skills units—all of it new. Additional new web-based activities are sprinkled throughout the book, accompanying other skills-unit activities and reading selections. While these present some of the intricacies of the Internet, their primary purpose is broader: to introduce and provide practice in decision-making strategies for effective reading. Whether accessing a travel site or reading highly technical material, the ability of students to evaluate information sources is nowhere more crucial than on the Internet, and these activities highlight critical reading skills. Because the current generation of students is familiar with the Internet, we spend less time introducing the basics and provide more options for students to do Internet-based research. Reader’s Choice, 5th Edition, provides reproductions of web pages, and for students and teachers who want to go beyond this, allows for work on the Reader’s Choice companion website (www.press.umich.edu/esl/readerschoice/) and other online resources.

New Readings. Five new reading selections respond to the changing environment faced by our students. These are often part of thematically linked sets of passages. Topics take up issues of globalization in a multicultural, multigenerational world, engaging issues from educational policy to economics and business to new fiction that expands the range of cultural experiences reflected in the text.

New Longer Reading. Unit 7 comprises a full short story by Jhumpa Lahiri, from her Pulitzer Prize–winning book, Interpreter of Maladies. The story, “The Third and Final Continent,” is the genesis of her novel, The Namesake. Students may be familiar with the movie by the same name that is based on it. The rich and moving story details a modern journey across continents. Both immigrant and international students will find much to identify with.

Additional Vocabulary. The new reading selections bring with them extensive additional vocabulary work. New lexical items are often topically related across a series of linked readings. Items are introduced and practiced in a variety of formats, always reinforcing both the given item and more general literacy and acquisition skills. In both the skills units and readings, additional dictionary work, particularly examples of web-based information, has been added. Some of the Vocabulary Review activities included in previous editions are now featured on the Reader’s Choice companion website.

Additional Skills. Reader’s Choice, 5th Edition, includes additional skills work. Paragraph Main Idea work now requires students to read longer passages, creating prose summaries. Throughout the book, students transfer data from prose to tables and from graphs to prose; throughout, students read to write.

Updating. All the skills and reading selection units have been updated. Throughout the text are new items along with expanded and updated introductions and activities.