

CAMBRIDGE

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Windows Macintosh



Title: New Interchange 1 & 2

Author: Charles Shields with Jack Richards

Software: IBIS Multimedia

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Type: Courseware accompaniment

System requirements

New Interchange 1: Windows 95 with Quicktime

Macintosh (order separately)

New interchange 2

Windows/ Macintosh hybrid; Windows 95,98,NT, 2000. Not networkable

Macintosh 68040 or higher, System 7 or later.

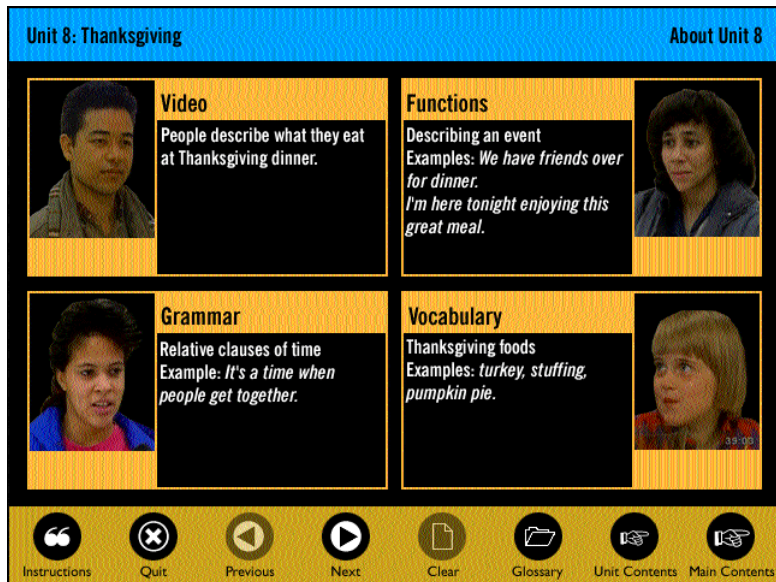
Price: Single user version: £29.95

EU & UK add 17.5% VAT

new interchange

These packages are pegged to the American English bestseller *New Interchange* adapted by Charles Shields 'with' Jack C. Richards, the original coursebook author.

The CD-ROMs are designed for single user student customers, and no network version is available. This is very inconvenient for network-only setups, but at £29.95 each it would not overstretch the



budget for a small language centre to buy several copies. The Autorun makes it blindingly simple for standalone computers.

Mercifully the courses are available for Windows and Macintosh.

It is not a 'course' in itself and one of the useful tips on the sturdy cardboard cover recommends that students use it to 'review the language you learned in class' with the aid of the *New interchange* coursebook. However, it can also function quite independently.

The two CD-ROMs in each level cover 16 units, each of which gives about two hours of activities, although the 'useful tips' suggest that it is best to limit the time to short sessions of 30 minutes or so.

After every four units there is a test.

Most of the unit topics are definitely odd-ball: a visit to an inventors' fair, an accident-prone office worker finds love with another clumsy co-worker, a disastrous holiday trip and more. In general they are off-beat themes skilfully worked to hold the attention of young learners. Some of the treatments are humorous, normally a minefield which can produce more groans than laughter, and *New interchange* does not entirely avoid this trap - but it doesn't do too badly.

The video sequences are accompanied by a standard menu of language activities including drag and drop gap-fill, multiple choice and record your own version and compare with the original.

There is no saving of results or a score as such (if a drag and drop exercise allows you to drop your attempt in place then you see that your attempt is correct - there is no obtrusive 'That's right' audio prompt). Students can see and print out the video transcripts. You can also get spoken instructions - which gives extra authentic listening practice (hear and obey!). Videos are a little long at around four minutes but as some of this is wordless padding and music it is not too much of a strain.