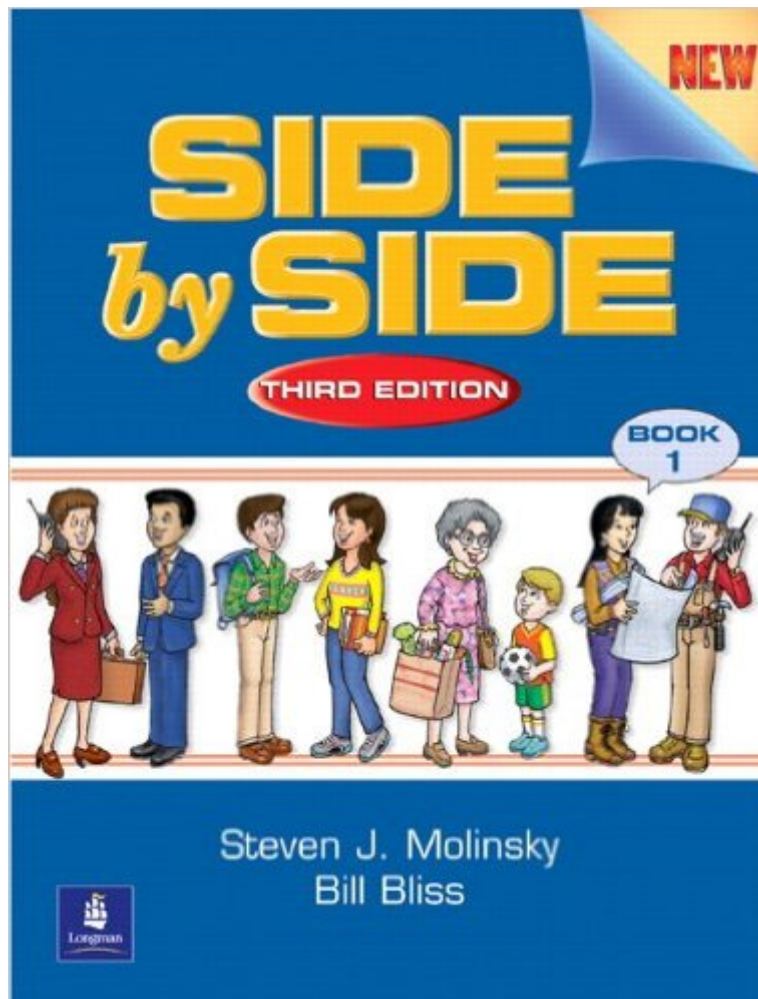


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# Side By Side: Student Book 1, Third Edition



## Synopsis

Side by Side, Third Edition, by Steven J. Molinsky and Bill Bliss, is a dynamic, all-skills program that integrates conversation practice, reading, writing, and listening -- all in a light-hearted, fun, and easy-to-use format that has been embraced by students and teachers worldwide. This four-level program promotes native communication between students ... practicing speaking together "side by side." Features of the Third Edition Vocabulary Preview sections in every chapter introduce key words in a lively picture dictionary format. "How to Say It!" lessons highlight communication strategies. Pronunciation exercises provide models for practicing authentic pronunciation, stress, and intonation. Side by Side Gazette "magazine-style" pages offer feature articles, fact files, vocabulary expansion, cross-cultural topics through photos, authentic listening activities, e-mail exchanges, and humorous cartoons for role-playing. All-new illustrations are lively, light-hearted, and richly detailed to offer students language practice that is contextualized and fun. The core components include Student Books, Teacher's Guides, Activity Workbooks, Activity & Test Prep Workbooks, Communication Games and Activity Masters, audio programs, combined split editions (Student Book and Workbook lessons combined), a testing program, and picture cards. Â

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (78 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I have worked as an English teacher for awhile now, and have found that this text is great for teaching motivated students. It is really good for teaching in Japan, because these impersonal characters are a great way to get shy students to talk about and practice a much wider scope of

language structures and experience. It can be very hard to tell if a shy student is competent in something, but just doesn't want to talk about it, or doesn't want to talk about it because they are unable. These pictures take that problem away. Two things to be aware of though are, that on any given page, a certain structure is practiced in a very structured and repetitive way. It is important for the instructor to make sure that the students understand the meaning of what they are expressing, and any new vocabulary that is being introduced with the new structure. Pictures often help with conveying the meaning, but it is the teacher's job to check. I find this to be most necessary in kid's courses, where the motivation comes from mom and dad not themselves, and the kids can feel that just showing up, and going through the patterns is enough. I have had students get to the point where they can put the vocab from each problem into the blanks seamlessly-- but cannot understand or answer a simple question based on the picture I use to check comprehension. Not a fault of the book, just a hint for those who wish to teach with it well. I like the books so much, that I use them in conjunction with other language specific grammar books as a guide to expanding my own language ability in languages other than English. Contexts of language use, and topics of conversation (and the accompanying vocab) are great in this series, and using them has helped my own Japanese, Spanish, and French.

I have been teaching english, in China, for two years, and I have seen my share of TESL material. This is in my mind the best book I have seen for teaching english. Many TESL books throw vocabulary at students, and treat grammar as a secondary objective to learning. For example a TESL book may give you a lot of vocabulary words, and expect you to stick the words into whatever grammar you know. This leads to students who say things like "We is eating tomorrow". Poor grammar. The Side by Side books emphasize the grammar more, and then give you new vocabulary to use with the grammar. This is a much better way to teach english, in my opinion. And, not to say that the side by side books ignore a hefty vocabulary, although I suspect that might be the biggest complaint one may have of the series. Any english instructor can tell you that the big difference between good english and GREAT english is mastering grammar, which the Side by Side books make as easy as possible. Plenty of illustrations on every page allow students to incorporate what they're reading with easy to understand illustrations. The workbooks that go with the reading book are indispensable, and heavily emphasize repeating the grammar and using the vocabulary correctly. The workbooks do include songs and "clap along" singing exercises every few pages that I find a bit useless and too "kiddy" for most students but for younger children it could be useful. I also have used this book for teaching adults with nice results. My Side by Side students generally

have better grammar than students who use other material I teach with, which means they understand more of what they hear, and can express themselves more clearly to other English speakers.

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