

Exploring grammar and developing reading skills.

What is it? A new e-learning CD-ROM commissioned by the Birmingham Core Skills Partnership and developed by the University of Wolverhampton and the Language Development Network to support the delivery of the level 4 Literacy Subject Specifications.

Who is it for?

It is designed to be used as part of a blended approach to learning by anyone studying towards the literacy specifications at level 4. It is useful for teacher trainers delivering the level 4 subject specifications and individual learners on those courses.

It will also be useful for users at level 3 and for individuals who are engaged with core subject knowledge on generic teacher education courses in the post 16 sector.



What does it contain?

The CD provides a step-by-step introduction to the key facets of English grammar and the associated 'metalinguage' which is a cornerstone of becoming a professional within the field of *Skills for Life*.

The CD contains the following modules.

- **Grammar at word, sentence and text level:**
 - Word classes 1
 - Word classes 2
 - Phrases and clauses
 - Sentence types.
- **Developing reading and writing skills:**
 - Text types and verb forms
 - Sources of reading difficulty for learners - word, sentence and text level
 - Sequencing learning - moving from reading to writing.



Features:

- teaching strategies which support reading and writing skills development
- grammar 'games' as a fun way of consolidating learning
- paper-based, supplementary practice material, which can be printed out and worked on separately
- fully interactive learning, including information and tasks on every screen, supported by in-depth feedback
- an interactive glossary of key terms.



How do I use it?

The CD-ROM does not cover the subject specifications in their entirety, hence the need for it to be used in conjunction with an established course of study. It is intended that individuals use it primarily to focus on the areas that they themselves consider to be in need of development.

The advantages of working in this way are:

- users can select an appropriate topic according to their experience
- users can achieve mastery through repetition and through in-depth feedback
- any gaps in knowledge are not publicly exposed.

Users can choose which part of the programme they use depending upon their subject knowledge at any given point in their learning programme. We would recommend that users new to this area complete the programme in menu order. In this way, underpinning knowledge will be built up from word to sentence to text level. It is highly recommended that all the elements of a particular unit are completed, including the 'More Practice' word documents before moving to the next section or attempting the games.

What equipment is needed?

Your computer must meet the following minimum requirements to run this CD-ROM:

Windows

CPU: Pentium 233 MHz

Video ram: 4 Mb

RAM: 64 Mb

HD with 100 Mbytes of free space

CD drive: 24x speed

Sound card (16 bit)

Speakers or headphones

SVGA graphics card, 16 bit colour
(800 x 600 resolution)

Keyboard

Mouse (Microsoft compatible)

Operating system: Windows 95 or later

How can I find out more?

You can find out more about the CD-ROM and CTAD's other resources for literacy, numeracy and ESOL, including work-based materials, at www.ctad.co.uk; or call CTAD's sales team on (01223) 470480.

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