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DEVELOPING READING SKILLS

INTERMEDIATE I

SECOND EDITION

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Developing Reading Skills: Intermediate 1, SecondEdition, is a completely new book. This thoroughly revised program reflects a different orientation toward reading because our philosophy of the nature of reading and our perception of the real reading needs of students have evolved over the years. The new text is based upon an interactive, process model of reading, and it follows the organizational scheme of Expanding Reading Skills: Intermediate 2, second edition (1993) and Expanding Reading Skills: Advanced 2, second edition (1990).

Developing Reading Skills: Intermediate1 is intended for college students or other adults who want to develop their reading skills for academic, personal, or career purposes. The text is also appropriate for high school students. This book was designed for students of English as a Second Language (ESL) and English as a Foreign Language (EFL) in both academic and nonacademic settings; however, it can also be successfully used with adult native English Speakers in developmental reading classes.

Developing Reading Skills: Intermediate 1 is the second in afive-book reading program designed to meet the needs of students from beginning through advanced levels. The program is designed as follows:

- · Developing Reading Skills, Beginning
- Developing Reading Skills, Intermediate 1
- Expanding Reading Skills, Intermediate 2
 - Developing Reading Skills, Advanced 1
- Expanding Reading Skills, Advanced 2

Answer keys are available for each of the five titles in the series.

This comprehensively revised edition of **Developing**Reading Skills: Intermediate1 is composed of five thematic
units and a unit on research and writing skills:

- The Rights of Children
- The Changing Family
- Education Around the World: Japan, the Netherlands, and Sweden
- How to Give a Speech (and Listen to One)
- The Fascinating World of the Honeybee
- Developing Research and Writing Skills

Each thematic unit has three or four reading and a rich variety of reading, writing, discussion, and structure exercises designed to help learners develop comprehension and integrate new ideas with

their know ledge and experience of the world. The readings are on challenging and relevant topics and have been selected from a wide variety of published and unpublished sources, including student writting. Students and teachers at Borough of Manhattan Cominunity College, City University of New York, helped us select the unit themes, and they generously offered us feedback on the materials during the development and field testing of this book. In *The Changing Family* unit, students conducted some of the interviewsthat form the basis of one section. All materials were thoroughly tested and revised before publication.

Some of the major features of **Developing** Reading Skills, Intermediate 1, Second Edition, are:

- Extensive prereading activitles: Before they begin reading: learners work together in guided discussion to activate their awareness of the topic. The prereading activities (1)introduce the text in the context of what the learners already know, (2) promote sharing of information among group members, (3) encourage speculation on textual content, and (4) set the stage for the learners' successful integration of new ideas and concepts in the text with their knowledge and experience of the world. We recommend that students working together in small groups choose one or two questions to discuss in detail and that a spokesperson from each group later summarize the main points or the group didcussion for the whole class.
- Thematic organization: Each of the five units has three or four readings centered on a common theme. The thematic approach allows for a natural recycling and spiraling of concepts, vocabulary, and syntactic structures. The result is that learners develop their reading, thinking, and writing skills more quickly and are highly motivated to expand their efforts as they successfully cope with more and more challenging material. Finally, we have carefully selected the thematic readings so that the learners will be exposed to a variety of content demands and text densities.
- Solid reading-writing connection: Students write about what they read. They explore in writing their own ideas and feelings about each selection, and they read their writing to their classmates. Furthermore, in the expansion section at the end of every unit, students have the opportunity to develop their writing and research skills through a multi - step process

approach. They learn how to develop and elaborate their ideas in writing and how to continue the thematic spiral through their own, independent research if they wish. The process writing and research section has been placed at the end of the book so that students may refer to it as a resource handbook as needed.

- * Process approach to reading and writing: Learners are shown how to interact with in a logical, systematic manner and how to vary their reading approach to suit their reading purpose and the content and text density demands of the reading. In addition, they learn to alter their reading speed. They learn how to use text features for example, headings, different print sizes and types - as poiters to meaning and to use context clues to figure out meanings of new words and phrases. They are guided in how to relate their prior knowledge and experience to the text. Finally, they learn that systematic rereading is as important to reading as systematic rewriting is to writing.
 - + Glossary: A glossary, with definitions and example sentences has been added at the end of the text as a quick reference Students will still need to use their own dictionaries for examining the range of meanings of a word and for words not included in the glossary.

How to Use The Text

We recommend that instructions within the units be followed as closely as possible. For example, every unit begins with a headnote to provide contextual orientation. By prividing useful social and historical information, about the topic, this headnote helps learner get their bearings before they begin reading. This is helpful for all readers, and particularly for students at the intermediate lavel. Prereading discussion activities follow. We emphasize the importance of giving careful attention to these activities (as outlined above) because they help the learners relate the text to their previous knowledge and experience. Furthermore, the prereading activities promote cooperative learning and encourage a sharing of social and cultural information. In brief, although it is not necessary for all students to discuss all the prereading questions in detail (small groups can choose one or two to examine) he more attention they give to the prereading activities, the more successfully the learners will be able to int ... ract with the text.