



Preface

The idea for the first edition of this book was born back in 1996. I (Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin) was part of a team that was conducting workshops for speech–language pathologists who needed to pass the Praxis so they could become licensed and certified in order to accommodate increasingly stringent professional state and federal requirements. These experienced clinicians, who had graduated from school 10–35 years ago, suddenly found themselves faced with the need to quickly learn (or retrieve from memory) a great deal of current information to pass a challenging examination. The task seemed formidable to many of them.

At the same time, my colleague at California State University–Fresno, Giri Hegde, and I were dealing with many graduate students who were experiencing great stress over the prospect of taking upcoming master’s comprehensive examinations, as well as the Praxis (usually taken within the same time period). All of these people needed current information covering the entire field of speech–language pathology. Many of them did not have time to go to libraries, check out books, read through each book, and extract the most relevant and up-to-date information that was likely to be asked on the Praxis and on comprehensive examinations in graduate programs. As we reflected upon this situation, an idea was born. Why not write a book that would meet those needs? Why not gather current, relevant material into one book that would help students and practitioners review for examinations that would open (or, sadly, close) career doors to them?

Several years later, the first edition of this book came together in one comprehensive package geared toward helping students and practitioners study for and pass the Praxis and comprehensive examinations in graduate programs. But there was, and still is, a third purpose for the book. We intend it to be not only a study guide but also a review for practitioners who want an update of the field for their professional growth. We have spoken with many practitioners in various professional settings, some of whom are aware that much of their knowledge has become dated but do not have the time or resources to obtain current knowledge in so many areas of an ever-expanding field. Thus, we have also written this book for experienced speech–language pathologists who would like to read current and comprehensive information for their own professional development.

It has been a joy to update a book that is unique in the field of speech–language pathology. No other book is written specifically to meet the needs of students taking comprehensive examinations and the Praxis, experienced practitioners taking the Praxis, and experienced practitioners who are seeking professional growth. When we have discussed the book with students and practitioners, the resounding response has been, “How soon will the book be out? I want to buy it! Please hurry and finish it!” (The last comment has also been heard from our spouses, but that is another story.) It is a great privilege for us to contribute the fourth edition of this book to our field, and we hope that it will open doors for those who are seeking further knowledge and opportunities.

The book includes unique pedagogical devices to facilitate the learning process. Each chapter has special features to help readers learn and retain the information presented. Chapters begin with a detailed “preview paragraph” to orient readers to chapter contents. Each chapter section contains both a brief introduction and an ending summary to help readers (a) become aware of what they will read, (b) read it, and (c) review what they have just read. We believe that repetition is one of the keys to learning and retaining information. At the end of each chapter, a “Chapter Highlights” section reviews and summarizes the most pertinent information. Readers who are studying for examinations can, soon before the examination, refresh their memories by re-reading section introductions, summaries, and chapter highlights.

Test questions in multiple-choice format can be found at the end of each chapter. The multiple-choice questions are written in a manner similar to that of the questions on the Praxis, to help prepare readers for those questions. We have included many more “case study” type questions to reflect the current Praxis. Answers to multiple-choice test questions are located on the last page of each chapter. For readers who want more information about certain topics within a chapter, we have included a comprehensive list of current references and

recommended readings at the end of each chapter. These lists have been substantially updated; the fourth edition of this book contains over 500 new, current references.

In the fourth edition of this book, we have also made content updates. All chapters have been revised to include current information and references. There is new information about the national Common Core State Standards; we tie child language information to the standards and discuss how speech–language pathologists can provide services that are current, relevant, and related to helping children with language impairments achieve the standards. In various chapters, we discuss iPad apps (applications) and how they can be used with persons with communication disorders. There is also new information about pediatric dysphagia and telepractice.

A new feature in this fourth edition is Quick Response Codes (QRs). These QRs can be quickly scanned by a phone or iPad, and the reader will be led directly to a relevant website with more in-depth information about the topic being discussed. Many QRs lead directly to ASHA's current practice portals and evidence maps; ASHA's information gives the reader current, scientific evidence that supports chapter information.

The information in the appendix has been almost entirely replaced with new information based on the new edition of the Praxis examination that came out in September 2014.

We also have a new online companion product, “An Advanced Review of Speech–Language Pathology: Preparation for Praxis and Comprehensive Examination, Fourth Edition, Practice Tests,” which simulates the Praxis and tracks a student's results over multiple test sessions. Compatible with all browsers and most devices, the 1-year subscription allows a person to take multiple, varied practice tests that simulate the Praxis SLP test. Just like the new edition of the Praxis examination, this practice format includes questions from three content categories: (a) foundations and professional practice; (b) screening, assessment, evaluation, and diagnosis; and (c) planning, implementation, and evaluation of treatment. On completion of a test, students will be able to compare their current performance with previous performances.

This online product was created through the extensive knowledge and expertise of Dr. Glen Tellis, professor and chairman, Department of Speech–Language Pathology at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania. Glen, thank you for your outstanding contribution! We are so grateful for the privilege of working with you.

We have been flattered by and most pleased with the success and acclaim that have greeted the first three editions of this book. Students and professionals from across the United States and even other countries have thanked us for writing the book, and we feel blessed to know that our work is providing help and support for so many readers. We have worked very hard to make this fourth edition even more useful.

A book such as this never happens without the help of many people. We would like to especially thank Beth Rowan of PRO-ED for her patience, dedication, encouragement, and enthusiasm as we completed this fourth edition. We also thank our families, especially Mike and Mark McKibbin and Prema Hegde, for their unconditional love and support.

Again, it is a privilege for us to contribute this work to our field. Thanks to the help and support of the aforementioned individuals, we are able to offer the fourth edition of this book to students and practitioners from all over the United States and abroad. It is our hope that it will open doors to those very deserving individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving people with communication disorders.