

# Introduction

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Do your students struggle with language tasks? Do they experience difficulty mastering basic language skills? If so, they are undoubtedly frustrated with our complex language. Oftentimes, older students find themselves lost in the language or feel left behind in the midst of a group engaged in general conversation. The demands of our language require us to process so much information that when we are unable to keep up, we fail to understand what is going on or being said. Because students with poor language skills don't make natural connections between what they see and know, they may not "get" knowledge that is obvious to most people or that most of us think of as just plain common sense.

Unfortunately, students who have trouble with basic language skills and just don't seem to "get" it will probably experience difficulty with self-expression, decision-making, social development, reading, and math. However, if you can intervene and help make these language tasks manageable and more automatic for your students, their road to success will be much smoother. *100% Language—Intermediate* is full of ready-to-use activities designed to help you do just that. Once your students learn these skills and begin to understand and use language more effectively, they will become more successful in other areas as well.

*100% Language—Intermediate* is divided into six language areas that progress in difficulty throughout each unit:

- Sequencing
- Cause & Effect
- Problem Solving
- Opinions
- Inferencing
- Paraphrasing

Each unit includes the following components:

- Overview
- Progress Chart
- 24 activity pages
- Parent/Caregiver Letter

## ■ Overview

The overview offers a brief description of the unit, additional suggestions for introducing the unit and using the activity pages, and expansion activities to help you provide opportunities for your students to generalize what they've learned.

### ■ Progress Chart

The progress chart is a tool you can use to keep track of the activities a student has completed and record any comments you might have on his performance.

### ■ Activity Pages

The activities are designed for one-on-one or classroom use with students ages 9-14. The pages progress in difficulty throughout each unit. Some of them contain pictures to give the student clues to the answers; however, they generally do not provide answers to the questions. The pictures may also be beneficial when working with ESL students or students who have a more limited vocabulary.

These activity pages allow the student to practice both verbal and written language situations. Many of the activity pages provide the opportunity for the student to give a written response. As students get older, written tasks are more prevalent. Students who have difficulty with general language tasks often have difficulty applying language to written tasks. Other pages are intended to be answered orally; however, you may choose to incorporate writing into these tasks by having students write their responses on a separate sheet of paper. Likewise, you may also choose to change the directions on activity pages that require the students to provide written responses and instead instruct them to respond orally.

Activities 23 and 24 in each unit are included to provide students with opportunities to apply the targeted language skills to more real-life situations.

### ■ Parent/Caregiver Letter

A family letter has been provided for each unit telling parents and caregivers what the child has been learning. There are also some activity ideas for family members to use to help the student continue practicing a particular skill at home.

As you work through the units in *100% Language—Intermediate*, you may notice that there are some similarities across language areas. This is because the targeted language skills are not pure in themselves, but rather, they build one upon the other. I've attempted to separate the tasks enough so that students can focus on one area of language at a time, thereby strengthening it to improve their overall language.

I hope you and your students enjoy this simple approach to improving language comprehension.

Patti