

To the Teacher

What is an Emerging Reader? The *PreK-12 English Language Proficiency Standards* (TESOL, 2006) specifies the term “emerging” to describe level 2 English language learners as follows:

At the Emerging level, students can understand phrases and short sentences.... Reading and writing proficiency may vary depending upon students’ literacy development in their native language and their familiarity with the alphabet, among other factors. Students can read words and phrases and locate specific, predictable information in simple, everyday, or environmental print. They often make errors in writing that hinder communication.

Level 2 emerging learners, therefore, are often older students who can already read in their first language but need contrastive phonics and intensive vocabulary to develop English literacy.

What is the purpose of this book? *A to Z Picture Activities* is an illustrated English vocabulary builder with phonics and grammar exercises for emerging readers from grade 6 to adult. All of its 888 illustrated words are presented in the context of lively art and sentence activities. Each unit includes oral practice as well as introductory reading and writing.

How can the book be used? The book can be used as a sequenced program from A to Z or selectively as a supplement to another text. To ensure the most systematic and comprehensive approach to the sounds and spellings of English, however, it is recommended that teachers proceed from A to Z, since most exercises are designed cumulatively. The vocabulary activity pages include 150 of the most frequent words in English, the Dolch List of basic sight words, 62 illustrated common verbs, and 550 words on themes such as colors, clothing, and food. These pages can be used at any time.

How do I present *A to Z Picture Activities* to my students?

- First orient your students to the components of the book, including the pages at the end – the “CD Script for the A to Z Activities Book,” the “Activities Answer Key,” and the “Index of Illustrated Words.”
- Help the students fill in page iii, “All About Me” to personalize the book. This page also provides you information about each student. Then discuss page vi, “The Sounds of English.”
- Go over page 1, “The Alphabet,” with your students. Here you can explain that the names of the alphabet letters in English frequently do not correspond with the sounds they represent. On the phonics pages they will learn more about sound-symbol correspondence and spelling.
- Read the title of the first page of the A unit to the students. Ask them to skim all the A unit pages. Explain that there are vocabulary, grammar, and phonics exercises in each unit.
- Pronounce the illustrated vocabulary for the students. Discuss the meanings of the words, and play the CD of the page, having the students repeat the words. Alternatively, you can read the CD script for the first page from the printout in the back of the book.
- Read the activity instructions aloud. Ask a student to read and explain the example sentence. Divide the students into pairs. Have them complete the page and discuss their answers. Remind them that they can check their answers in the back of the book.
- Continue similarly with the phonics pages and vocabulary pages. Follow this same process for each unit. Discuss and review the vocabulary, phonics, and key grammar points in the unit.

Index of Illustrated Words

The words in phonetic script are available at www.ProLinguaAssociates.com under *A to Z Picture Activities*.

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