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978-0-521-28364-9 - Developing Reading Skills: A Practical Guide to Reading Comprehension Exercises

Françoise Grellet

Frontmatter

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To Alan

I am very much indebted to Guy Capelle whose works and ideas first made me conscious of how interesting the study of a written text could be made for the students. I hope he will find here a proof of my thanks and gratitude.

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To the reader

Who the book is for

This book was written with teachers and material developers in mind. It should be useful to teachers who do not use a reading course and who wish to produce their own material, as well as to people who are developing material for tailor-made courses. It may also be useful to teachers using a course which they wish to enrich.

What the book is about

The book attempts to describe and classify various types of reading comprehension exercises. It is not a textbook for students or a general handbook on reading. The exercises provided in the book are cited as examples and ought not to be used indiscriminately: they are illustrations of different exercise-types. It is the principle underlying each exercise which is of the greatest importance to the teacher and materials writer.

This explains why the book is not designed for any particular level. The level of difficulty of the texts is unimportant here: the exercise-types suggested can be adapted for elementary, intermediate or advanced levels. What is important is the degree of complexity of the *tasks* the students are asked to perform in relation to the text.