Working with Texts

A core book for language analysis

• Ronald Carter
• Angela Goddard
• Danuta Reah
• Keith Sanger
• Maggie Bowring
Contents

Notes on authors  x
Acknowledgements  xi
Introduction  xiii

Unit one: Signs and sounds

Aim of this unit  1
Texts used  2

SIGNS  2
What is a sign?  2
As simple as ABC  9
From speech to writing  11
Space-shifting  28
Who's in the picture?  37

SOUNDS  38
A sound alphabet  39
Speech production and description: consonants  41
It's not what you say, it's the way that you say it  45
Sound symbolism  48
Speech production and description: vowels  55

Answers to activities  66

Unit two: Words and things

Aim of this unit  71
Texts used  73

WHAT ARE WORDS MADE OF?  74

WORD AND MEANING  77
Lexical ambiguity: say what you mean, or mean what you say?  77
Metaphor: life's a beach and then you fry  83
Idiomatic language: flogging dead crocodiles and keeping your feet under water  97
Denotation and connotation: what are words worth? 99
Linguistic determinism: words and viewpoints 104

HISTORICAL DIMENSIONS 108
Got any spare words? 108
Words mean what I want them to mean 117
Get your new words here! Creating new words 120

Unit three: Sentences and structures 125
Aim of this unit 125
Texts used 126

NOUNS AND PATTERNS 127
Pronouns and patterns 135

VERBS AND PATTERNS 140
Modals and modality 146

SENTENCES AND PATTERNS 149

TEXTS AND PATTERNS 157
Actives, passives and transitives 157
Comparisons 159

Unit four: Text and context: written discourse 165
Aim of this unit 165
Texts used 168

MAKE AND MEND 168

TRACING THE PATTERNS 171
Lexical cohesion 172
Grammatical cohesion 188
Information structure 217

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY 229
Answers to activities 245

Unit five: Text and context: spoken discourse 247
Aim of this unit 247
Texts used 248

SPEECH EVENTS 249