

**Primary Vocabulary Box – Word Games and activities for younger learners
by Caroline Nixon and Michael Tomlinson
Cambridge University Press**

Primary Vocabulary Box is a title from a series of resource books for primary school aged learners from the *Cambridge Copy Collection*. It contains photocopiable resources designed to supplement classroom teaching of English vocabulary, particularly focusing on the meaning and recognition of words.

Primary Vocabulary Box has 72 games and activities, including teacher's notes and extension activities on all the usual topics introduced to beginning English learners such as parts of the body, clothes transport, numbers, animals, colours, furniture and everyday topics. There are also activities teaching the alphabet, matching words and pictures, spelling, classification and word recognition.

The resource is divided into three sections with activities for beginning English learners and younger students aged 6-8 positioned at the beginning of the book while the second section has activities for students in the 9-10 age group with limited reading and writing skills. The third section is designed for students in the 11- 12 age group who have intermediate reading and writing skills which would equate to students in Bandscale level 5 and 6. Some of the activities in the first section such as the Opposites Puzzle and Word Wheel can also be used for older beginning students as there is good visual support with listening, speaking and reading involved in completion of the tasks.

The variety of activities presented in the resource are designed to appeal to different learning styles of the students as well as to encourage independence in learning, co-operation and social skills. All 4 macroskills are included in most activities although there is not such a great emphasis on the written component. The blackline masters are well set out with illustrations that are easy to identify.

As in the other books in the Cambridge Copy Collection, the setting out of each activity is clear and the instructions are concise and easy to understand. I would recommend this resource to ESL teachers in the primary school who need a resource that will reinforce concepts and vocabulary already learnt and whose students need practice in the oral aspects of English.

Reviewed by Bernadette Barker