ACTIVITY BOOK

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Notes for the teacher

American Get Ready! is a two-level course that aims to give students a feel for English and to establish a sound basis for later learning. Activity Book 1 is designed to provide further practice of the language and the skills introduced in Student Book 1 and Handwriting Book 1.

Each level of American Get Ready! is divided into 60 steps. Each step in the Activity Book is one page and should not be used until the students have completed the equivalent steps in the Student Book (one page) and Handwriting Book (half a page). American Get Ready! also has a Numbers Book for each level. Each Numbers Book is divided into 60 half-page steps intended for use after the equivalent steps in the Activity Book. The sequence for a complete step is as follows:

Oral work

The Activity Book provides reinforcement of the oral work in the Student Book. There are, for example, "Say and color" activities which require students to point to pictures and say the words in a left-right sequence (Step 12). Other "Say and color" activities involve students in forming simple sentences about pictures (Step 42).

The Alphabet

The sounds of the letters are taught in the Student Book, using the formula "a" for apple, "b" for boy, etc. The "Say the alphabet" exercises in the Activity Book are used to teach the names of the letters (Steps 3-21), gradually building up the alphabet as students learn the sounds of new letters through the Student Book.

Reading

There is no "real" reading in American Get Ready! 1, but students will learn to recognize letters of the alphabet, acquire left-right orientation, and be able to recognize some whole words. The Activity Book provides a range of exercises to reinforce this and to associate letters with the initial sounds of words.

Students are only expected to read the words or letters in large print. They look like this:

a b c a red plane

Words in small print indicate to the teacher the language the students should be using orally. They look like this:

Jack has two balloons.

Writing

Activity Book 1 provides opportunities for coloring and drawing. These are important for the development of motor skills. Activity Book 1 also gives students extra practice in writing both single letters and whole words. These exercises are carefully matched to the sequence in the Handwriting Book, and it is important to use the Activity Book only when the equivalent step in the Handwriting Book has been completed.

The Approach

Although much of the work in the Activity Book has been designed for students to do on their own, the teacher should always demonstrate on the chalkboard first, explaining where necessary in the students' first language. It's also a good idea to review the language area being practiced. The aim is for students to succeed and build up confidence about learning English. This won't happen if they are insecure or if they feel that they are constantly being tested.

American Get Ready! Teacher's Book 1 provides full notes on how to use each page of Activity Book 1.