

NEW CENTURY ENGLISH

# NEW CENTURY READINGS

Level 3

A Graded Comprehension Course

Ken Methold  
Heather Jones

**TAS**  
KİTAPÇILIK & YAYINCILIK

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Series Editor: Ken Methold  
Text Editor: Barbara Pepworth  
Cover and Text Design: Paul Price-Smith  
Illustrations: Cheryl Orsini

This edition published in Turkey  
and distributed by Taş Kitapçılık & Yayıncılık Ltd. Şti.

First impression 1998

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#### Acknowledgements

Pages 13, 45, 49, 57, 61, 69, 73 and 77 passage illustrations, and cover provided by ArtToday  
Archive ([www.arttoday.com](http://www.arttoday.com))

Pages 9, 25, 33, 37 and 53 passage illustrations provided by IMSI Master Clips/Master Photos ©  
Collection, 1895 Francisco Blvd, East, San Raphael, CA 94901-5506, USA

Page 1 passage illustration provided by Taş Kitapçılık & Yayıncılık  
All other illustrations by Cheryl Orsini

ISBN 975-466-114-6

## Contents

Introduction	v	Unit 11 Alfred Nobel	41
Unit 1 The world's most beautiful carpets	1	Unit 12 Chewing gum	45
Unit 2 Blizzard	5	Unit 13 Mozart	49
Unit 3 Vampires	9	Unit 14 Haute couture	53
Unit 4 Stephen King	13	Unit 15 Chameleons	57
Unit 5 McDonald's	17	Unit 16 Venus flytrap	61
Unit 6 Gold at the end of the garden	21	Unit 17 A dream of death	65
Unit 7 The haunted house	25	Unit 18 The Eiffel Tower	69
Unit 8 The acrobats of death	29	Unit 19 Thanksgiving Day	73
Unit 9 Elephants	33	Unit 20 Walt Disney	77
Unit 10 The curse of the ring	37		



The New Century Readings series is a new concept in supplementary reading practice for Intermediate students. Each reader provides students of English as a foreign language with a highly motivating, carefully selected series of articles on a wide variety of topics.

All of the articles have been specially written to conform to a carefully graded vocabulary. British English spelling and grammatical constructions are used throughout the series.

## LANGUAGE CONTROL

The language control is based on an analysis of the word lists and grammatical and functional English syllabuses currently in use, and follows on, with adequate revision, from courses used in Elementary classes. It assumes the students have completed an Elementary Level course.

New Century Readings is organised into 5 levels.

Level	Core Vocabulary	New words per Unit	Extent of Passage	Number of Units
1	300	5	up to 150	20
2	600	6	151 – 250	20
3	900	7	251 – 300	20
4	1,200	8	301 – 350	20
5	1,500	9	351 – 400	20

### Level One: 300 Core words

At this level, the 300 most commonly used words in English are used freely, and 5 or 6 new words are introduced in each unit to meet the content requirements of the articles.

### Level Two: 600 Core words

The same control is exercised at this level as at Level One except that the number of words that are used freely is increased to 600, and 6 or 7 new words are introduced in each unit.

### **Level Three: 900 Core words**

The same control is exercised at this level as at Level Two except that the number of words that are used freely is increased to 900, and 7 or 8 new words are introduced in each unit.

### **Level Four: 1,200 Core words**

The same control is exercised at this level as at Level Three except that the number of words that are used freely is increased to 1,200, and 8 or 9 new words are introduced in each unit.

### **Level Five: 1,500 Core words**

The same control is exercised at this level as at Level Four except that the number of words that are used freely is increased to 1,500, and 9 or 10 new words are introduced in each unit.

At each level the new words introduced in the previous level are also used freely. By the end of the course, therefore, the students will have acquired a vocabulary of at least 2,200 words.

## **CONTENT**

There are 20 articles in each book. The length of the articles increases as the language level becomes more difficult. For example, at Level One the passages are up to 150 words in extent. By Level Five, they are between 351 and 400 words in extent.

The topics are of wide general interest and range from articles about famous people to stories of how well-known brand names, such as McDonald's, Coca-Cola, etc., came into being. There are 'true' stories from the supernatural; insights into the lives of great composers, writers and artists; fascinating details from the world of fashion and popular music, and so on.

The topics have been chosen to satisfy the interests of modern young people. The information contained in each article is also of educational value, and contributes not only to the students' understanding of the modern world, but exposes them to useful, highly 'contemporary' vocabulary not found in more traditional reader series.

## EXERCISES

The New Century Readings series has been created in such a way that it can be used as a developmental tool, or, more formally, as texts for improving comprehension skills and acquiring vocabulary.

Except at Level One, at which there are fewer exercises, the exercises follow a similar format in each unit though there are variations to provide variety. They are designed to test not only an understanding of how the new words are used in the context of the passage but to give the students an opportunity to use this new vocabulary in a different context.

The **Comprehension** exercises require the students to demonstrate that they have understood not only the gist of the passage – what, essentially, it is all about (**Main idea**) – but also to show that they have fully understood all the information presented in the passage. These exercises also provide students with opportunities to write correct English.

The **Picture comprehension** exercise requires the students to use their understanding of the passage and match it to a visual presentation of an important fact contained in the passage. Sometimes they are also asked to write simple explanations of why one picture is true about the story and the other pictures are not. This is another form of guided writing and one that many students will enjoy as it has a puzzle element.

Finally, the students must provide a form of summary of the passage. This exercise requires them to demonstrate their comprehension of the passage as a whole, and also a knowledge of the correct forms of the words to be used.

A key to the exercises is available to teachers. This key also contains the complete word list for all levels of the series.

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