# Using extended continuous text with beginner readers

Presented by

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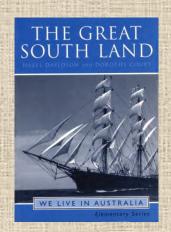
Friday 3 October 2014, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Broadbeach

Many years of frustration for ESL teachers
Hazel Davidson & Dorothy Court,
caused by lack of reading & spelling resources
suitable in linguistic features and content
for adult beginner learners

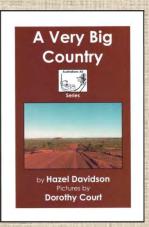
Finally concluded only solution was to write resources themselves.

# Resources born of frustration

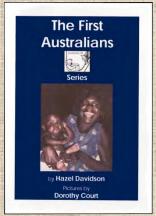
Readers + workbook + sound CD



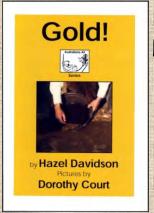
2001 Out of print New edition 2015



2004
Basic
Australian
geography



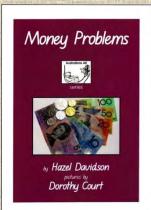
2005
Skills &
knowledge
of
Aboriginal
people



2005
History of
gold in
Australia

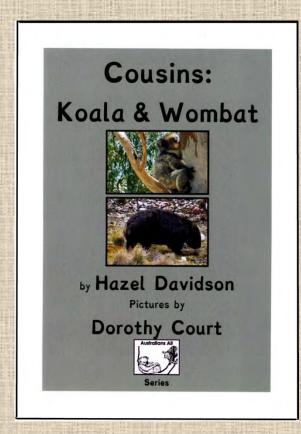


2008
Australian
levels of
government
& electoral
system



2012
Where
money
comes
from,
debt,
budgeting

### New in 2014



Not just cute cuddly marsupials.

Evolutionary history,

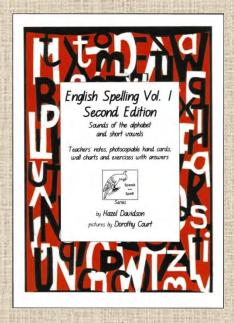
similarities and differences

between koalas & wombats,

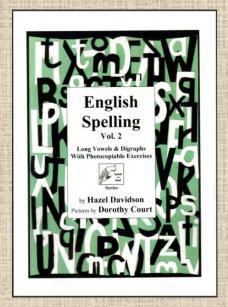
some modern environmental challenges

# Spelling resources for beginners

Phonics-based, spelling rules, photocopiable hand cards, wall charts & exercises



2002, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2011 Sounds of alphabet, exercises on short vowels



2005
Digraphs,
exercises
on long vowels



2005
Sound CD
Australian
pronunciation of sounds
from both books

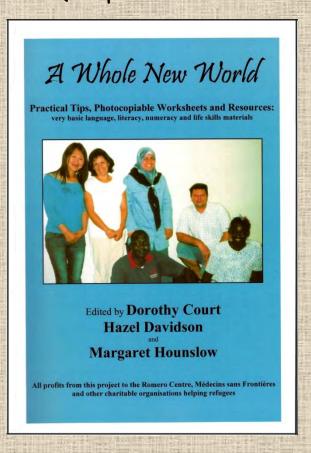
# Resources for refugees with no prior literacy

From Sugarbag on Damper Publishing

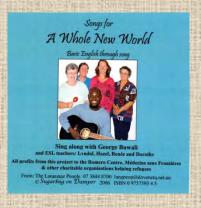
Collation of teaching tips, work sheets & reading texts

by many experienced teachers

(All profits from A Whole New World donated to refugee charities)



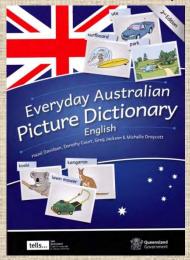
2006
Practical tips for teachers, photocopiable charts, handcards, reading texts & worksheets



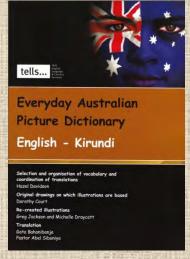
2006
Songs for learning
English
"lined slowly, then sung at a moderate pace

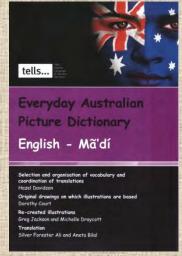
# Resources for refugees with no prior literacy

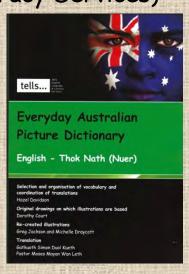
Written by Hazel Davidson & Dorothy Court
Funded and published by **TELLS** (TAFE English Language & Literacy Services)













## Why extended continuous text?

Students like books
Satisfaction in finishing a book
Provides meaningful context
Adult level & quantity of information
Building students' general knowledge about Australia & the world

### Golden rules

**NEVER** hurry low level students. Wait till everyone is finished task. (Teacher may be bored but students are intimidated.)

Beginner students generally like repetition - provides predictability, reassurance & confidence.

Usual preparation

look at & talk about pictures,
maybe pre-teach a few unfamiliar words etc.
(See Workbooks for vocab lists & Easy text for cut & paste exercises)

Discuss story - ask about similar events/experiences/places in students' lives. (Reading is about meaning, not just decoding)

### Reinforce

- point out same or similar sounds/spellings/words in other contexts
- manipulate words/pictures, sentences, information (Look at our spelling books & Workbooks for examples.)

## Not intended as whole program

### Presupposes concurrent:

- work on social issues for class/individual students
- work on learning strategies
- work on specific language issues problematic for students e.g., pronunciation, verb usage, vocabulary building etc. etc.

### Choice of texts

We use our own texts but you may choose others

- far more available now than 10 years ago
- e.g., TELLS beginner readers

## Presentation in 2 parts:

- · Lowest level students
  - very little English &/or no print literacy in any language
- Students with basic decoding skills in English but
  - low levels of confidence
  - infrequent use or avoidance of reading & writing
  - limited vocabulary & sentence structure
  - limited general knowledge

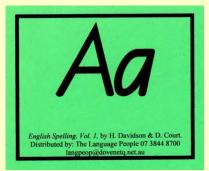
### What do we do?

## For students with no print literacy in any language

1. Alphabet - names & sounds whistle



hand cards (available from English Spelling Vol. 1)

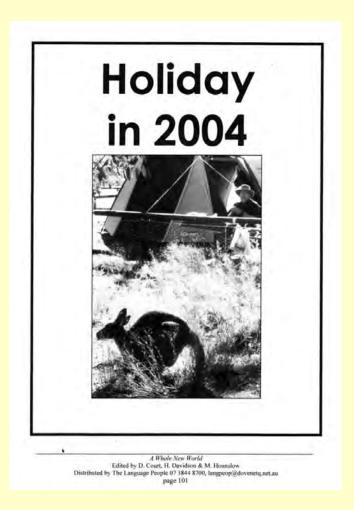


letter to sound; sound to letter drill everyday till most known continue with digraphs, spelling rules, sight words etc

### 2. Choose a text

e.g., Holiday in 2004 from A Whole New World

(Photocopy & staple together to form a separate book.)



Ten pages of easy-to-read text in simple past tense, describing a camping holiday which included encountering various forms of Australian wild life, fishing and swimming.

Other reading texts in A Whole New World:

John and Hazel live in Brisbane
(Simple present, daily routine)

What is happening now?
(Present continuous, he, she, it, they)

Of course, you may choose similar level texts written by other authors.

### 3. Decode Ho / li / day

Divide each word into syllables on slide onto white board.

Sound the word pointing to each letter

Ask students to repeat the sound after you.

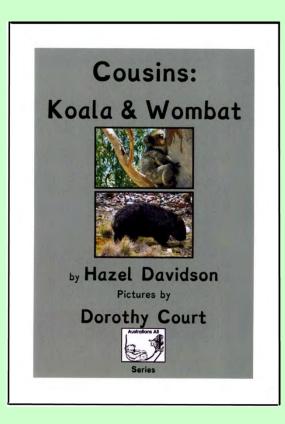
(Throughout the whole process students repeat after you.)

- i) /h/, /p/ (DON'T write phonetic symbols for students) Then the syllable /hp/
- ii) /l/, /ɪ/ Syllable /lɪ/
- iii) /d/, ay says /eɪ/ Syllable /deɪ/
- iv) Word /holidei/ Say slowly, then at normal speech pace.
- Go through this process for each phrase, then repeat the whole phrase. Then the sentence. Very slow process. Cover only one or two pages in a session. At the beginning of each new session, reread the earlier sentences with the students repeating.

### For students with basic decoding skills

(and possibly English as home language)

# 1. Choose text e.g. Cousins: Koala & Wombat



Written at 3 different levels (*Easy*, *Medium*, *Hard*):

ACSF 1, 2, 2-3

ISLPR 1, 1+, 2-2+

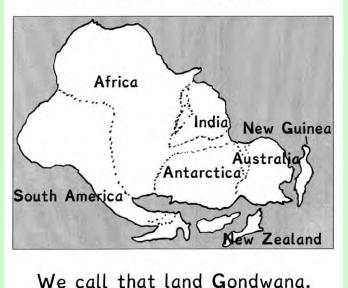
You may of course choose other texts written by other authors at similar levels of linguistic difficulty.

### 2. Choose version in students' comfort zone

(See comparative texts in teachers' notes in Workbook)

### A very old land

Long, long, long ago there was a very big land in the south of the world.



Easy text Dyslexie font 16 pt (www.studiostudio.nl)

Chunked for meaning, single principal clauses, no passive verbs

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### History

Millions of years ago there was one big land in the south of the world. We call that land Gondwana.

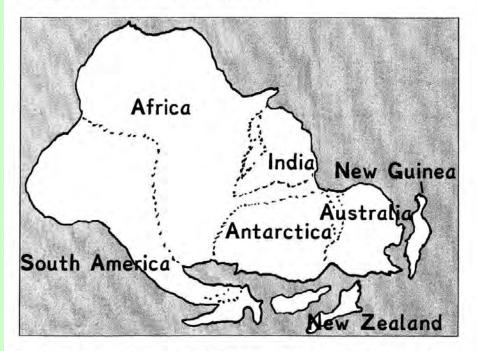


Medium text Times New Roman 14 pt
Chunked for meaning, slightly more difficult,
with slightly more content.

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#### **Pre-History**

About 500 million years ago there was a single huge landmass in the south of our planet. Scientists call it Gondwana.



Gondwana included modern Africa, Antarctica, Australia, India. New Guinea, New Zealand and South America.

Hard text Times New Roman 12 pt
Wrapped by computer, another increase
in linguistic difficulty and content

### 3. Work through text

- Don't rush (No need to finish in single session serialise!)
- Read for meaning (Not decoding to please teacher but source of pleasure &/or information for all)
  - Discuss, link to known facts/experiences
  - Discuss illustrations
  - Discuss unfamiliar words & concepts
  - If book incomplete at end of session, reread earlier sections at beginning of next session to keep flow of meaning

# 4. Work through some or all of exercises at the equivalent level in workbook

### Easy level

Vocabulary

Alphabetical order

Sound/spelling (phonics)

Punctuation

Comprehension

Verbs (simple present, is/are, was/were, can, must, like to, want to)

Plural nouns

Detailed listening

### **Medium level**

Vocabulary

Comprehension

Possessive adjectives

Its/it's

Spelling of /i/

Verbs (simple present

positive, negative, interrogative)

Similar to/different

from

Sentence writing

Detailed listening

#### Hard level

Vocabulary

Comprehension

Verbs (simple present

- positive, negative,

interrogative; simple past

regular, irregular

Syllabification

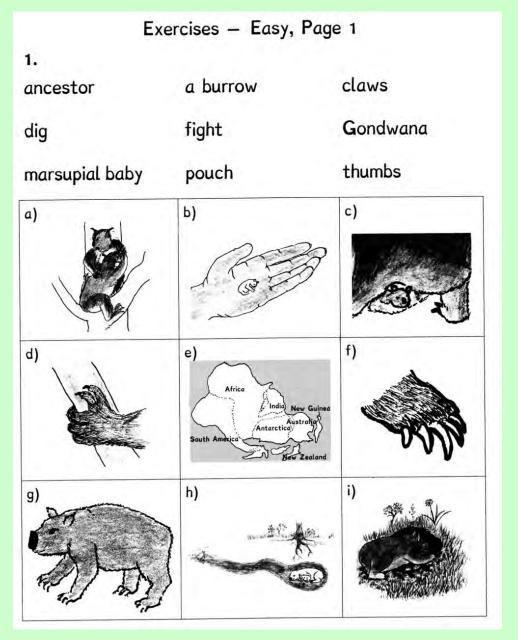
Unstressed syllables

Summary notes

Paragraph writing

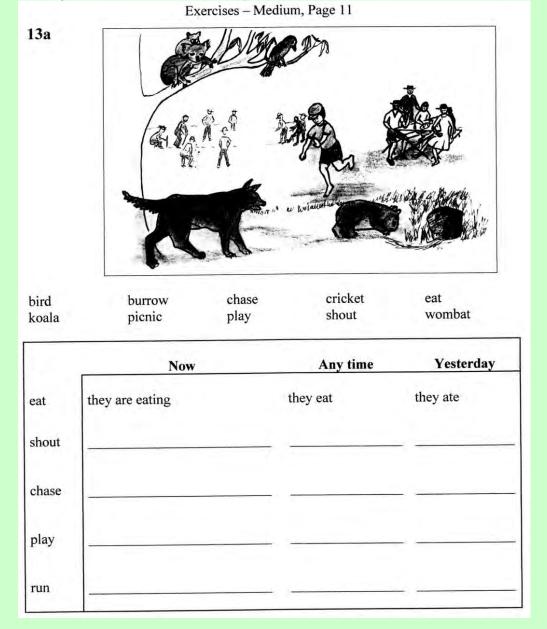
Detailed listening

#### Examples of exercises from Workbook:



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### Scaffolding for independent writing for reluctant writers:



### Training to hear both stressed and unstressed words to prevent loss of meaning:

Exercises – Hard, Page 13
16a Listen 8
Pre-History
500 million years there was _ single huge
in the of our
Scientists call Gondwana. Gondwana modern
Africa,, Australia, India, Guinea,
New and South
Scientists have marsupial fossils South America,
and Australia continents
were to each in Gondwana.
Marsupials
are animals have a
short gestation, about 35 days
koalas and 30 for wombats born marsupials
embryonic. They about 15 millimetres and
weigh half a They are and
have hair.
have hair.

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# 5. Consider attempting next level of text and exercises

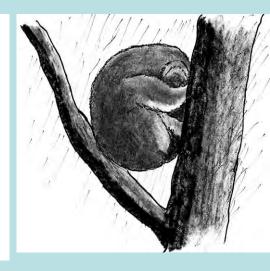
Many students will attempt a higher level of difficulty with the scaffolding provided by familiar content and illustrations.

If they can be persuaded, they are generally quite chuffed at themselves and their new skills.

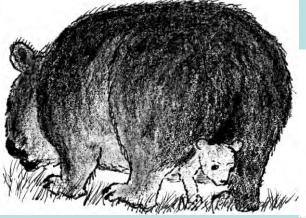


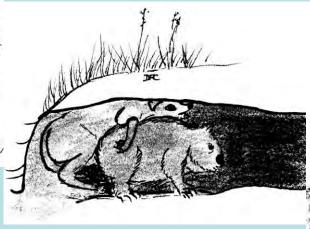


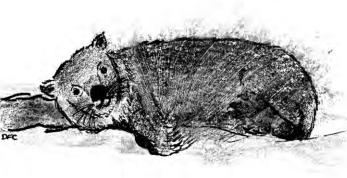




# A few pictures from the books







# Thank you for listening.

I'm happy to try to answer questions.

You can email me for a copy of the ppt or with questions that may occur to you later:

davidson.hazel@gmail.com

You can find details about all of our materials on our website:

www.sugarbagondamper.com