

# Introductory Steps to Understanding

L. A. Hill

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2. Elementary steps to understanding.
3. Intermediate steps to understanding.
4. Advanced steps to understanding—

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# Introduction

In this series of practice books, Dr. Hill uses four levels, his introductory (750-headword), elementary (1,000-headword), intermediate (1,500-headword) and advanced (2,075-headword) levels. This book is at the 750-headword level.

Each story is about 150 words long, and some of the stories contain one or two words outside the grading. These are listed on the pages on which they appear, and can be looked up in a dictionary before work is begun. In the instructions for the exercises, the words 'place', 'sentence', 'true', and 'false' are also outside the grading. All the levels are very carefully graded, and this covers not only vocabulary, but also idioms and grammar.

These four books are intended chiefly to help students read English more easily and with more comprehension, but they can also be used:

(i) for practice in understanding spoken English (with the student listening to the teacher, or to the cassette);

(ii) for practice in writing English (by answering the questions in English; by writing as much of the story as the student can remember; and by doing the exercises); and

(iii) for improving the student's command of vocabulary, idioms and grammar (again by doing certain of the exercises).

If the student wishes to use the books *only* for practice in reading comprehension, he/she should read a story and then answer questions *in his/her mother-tongue*.

He/She can also try reading some (or all) of the questions *first*, and then reading the story to find the answers to the questions before answering them. To increase speed of reading, the student can time himself/herself with a watch or clock, and try to read as fast as possible, *provided that he/she can still understand*.

If the student wants to use this book for practice in understanding spoken English, he/she can use the cassette in the following ways:

(i) He/She can listen to the cassette one or more times (with his/her book open or closed, as he/she wishes) and then read the story aloud

himself/herself, at first in chorus with the voice on the cassette, and then alone. After his/her own reading alone, he/she can check his/her performance by listening to the cassette again.

(ii) He/She can listen to the cassette one or more times, with his/her book closed, and then write down as much of the story as he/she can remember, and/or answer the questions and do the exercises (all without looking at the story). If he/she writes as much of the story as he/she can remember, he/she can then look at the story in the book, or listen to it again on the cassette, to compare what he/she has written with the original.

Method (i) gives practice in speaking with a good pronunciation, including stress, rhythm and intonation.

Method (ii) gives practice in aural comprehension (listening and understanding).

Other books by Dr. L. A. Hill are:

*Stories for Reproduction, First series*

4 levels (introductory/elementary/intermediate/advanced)

*Stories for Reproduction, Second series*

4 levels (introductory/elementary/intermediate/advanced)

*Anecdotes in American English*

3 levels (elementary/intermediate/advanced)

*Word Power*

3 levels (Word Power 1500, 3000, 4500)