

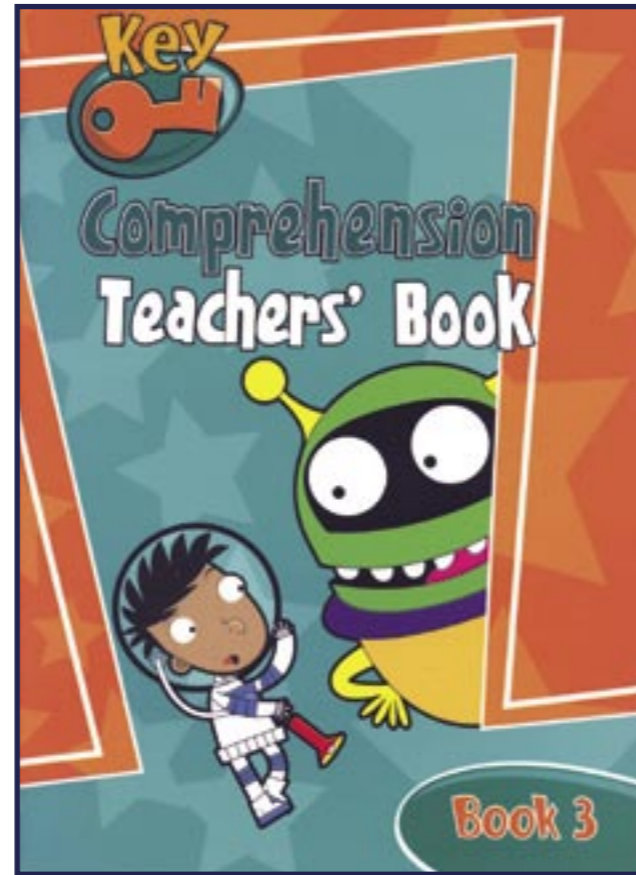
## Key Language

Essential skills for better reading and writing, the Key Language series covers five levels, from starter to level four. For Ages 6 to 11.

The Key Comprehension supports in-depth text level learning, Key Spelling provides lively word level activities, and Key Grammar offers excellent content for sentence level work.

- The Key Comprehension supports in-depth text level learning
- Key Spelling provides lively word level activities
- Key Grammar offers excellent content for sentence level work.

Together all three series provide a great value, tried and tested approach to help raise literacy standards.



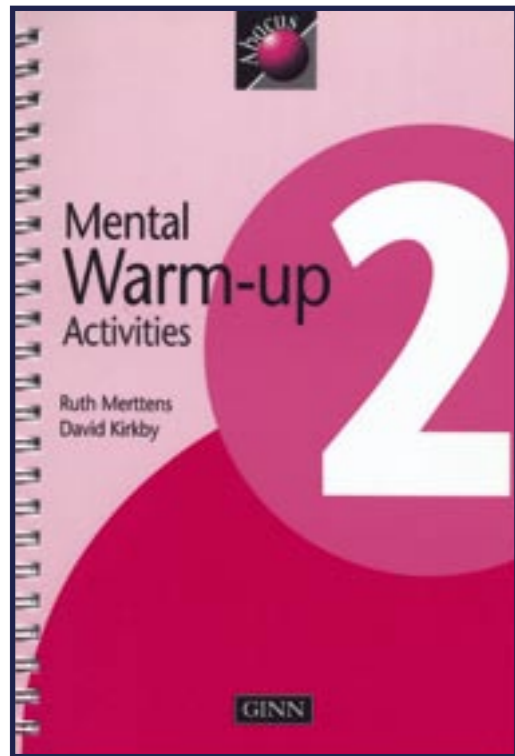
## Abacus

### Mental Warm-up Activities

New Abacus is the mathematics program with active teaching at its heart. It is conceived and designed around the principle of interactive whole class or large group teaching.

The Mental Warm-up Activities provide a structured scheme of work for developing mental mathematics strategies. The daily activities have been written to practice key mental skills, and address these using a variety of tactics.

Many of the activities throughout the book follow common formats and structures. This will enable the teacher to set up and run a particular activity quickly, and over time, the children will become used to the "rules" involved.



### More Info?

Do you plan to change the series for the 2007-08 and would like to consult other series?  
Would you like a Rearden representative to visit you?  
Please contact the nearest Rearden Office or write to:  
[info@rearden-educational.com](mailto:info@rearden-educational.com)

Some material or articles in this newsletter are copyrighted and □

**T-Break** is a publication of Rearden Educational, published every two months during the academic year.  
**Rearden** also offers: Publisher Representation | Teacher Recruitment | Teacher Training | School Consulting | Publishing

**REARDEN**  
Educational

Lebanon  
Badaro Trade Centre,  
Sami el Solh Avenue, Beirut  
T: +961 1 392 492, F: +961 1 396 065  
E: [info@rearden-educational.com](mailto:info@rearden-educational.com)

UAE  
Dubai Knowledge Village,  
Block 8 Office G-01, PO Box 500446 Dubai  
T: +971 4 390 2227, F: +971 4 366 4524  
E: [info-uae@rearden-educational.com](mailto:info-uae@rearden-educational.com)

Jordan  
Shaker Bin Zeid Street,  
No 28, Shmeisani, Amman  
T: +962 6 567 5607, F: +962 6 567 5686  
E: [info-jordan@rearden-educational.com](mailto:info-jordan@rearden-educational.com)

[www.rearden-educational.com](http://www.rearden-educational.com)

REARDEN presents

# The T-Break

in its 38th issue  
November 2006

Information from all over for teachers who are under.....piles of work

## Editorial

**"I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework."**

by Lily Tomlin

### Homework

That dreaded word.

That heavy, heavy word that students would like to see removed from the educational vocabulary. The word we would all have liked to see removed when we were students.

Remember when WE were students? Remember when we KNEW what should have been done had WE been the teachers? Remember that?

Ironically, we have either forgotten about it or realised that we can't avoid it. We just can't make learning fun. Shame on us.

Why can't homework be something kids look forward to? They have exciting computer games, mind boggling cell phones, blogs, great new toys that we couldn't even imagine one day would exist. And yet, homework is still as dull as it can ever be.

Imagine homework that would include all the above mentioned "distractions". Homework that includes beating a high score. A reluctant student in class can be seen doing his or her best to achieve that. Homework that includes creating and maintaining blogs that lead to the learning of a concept that just doesn't seem to make sense at 11 am with all the peers, chairs, walls, and the authority towering over you.

Be creative, people. You were once there. Remember? Remember how dull it was? What are you doing about it?



## Principle 13 of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child

1. The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.
2. The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:
  - (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or
  - (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.

## Agenda

Expolangues (Paris, France)  
Jan 18 to 21, 2007  
ECIS November Conference (Nice Acropolis, France) Nov 15 to 19, 2006  
BSME Conference (Oman) from  
Jan 30 to Feb 3, 2007  
London Bookfair April 16 to 18, 2007



## “The Middle East Educator”



“The Middle East Educator” is the newest and only medium in the region to discuss or analyze whether teaching methods, old or new, are adequate or whether the information in our books is accurate or inductive to learning. Is education just a tool that politicians wave around to gain popularity or to win elections, or is there truth behind promises to improve the sector and invest in it? The Middle East Educator will also be a vehicle through which educators can share their knowledge and expertise with their peers in the hope of providing an educational

boost to the system, and creating a platform for the free flow of ideas on education. Education is at the core of advanced societies and the basis on which our part of the world can be more tolerant, business and investor friendly, and The Middle East Educator has taken the lead in addressing these issues.”

## Sales Conference

The Harcourt International Team organized a highly successful sales conference in Oxford, England, from the 11th to the 13th of September 2006. This was evident in the brainstorming sessions of Harcourt representatives who gathered from all over the world to try to negotiate solutions to challenges and share their best practices.

The focus of these sessions was on different Harcourt Series, helping participants create a better understanding of each book and how best to market it.

The Rearden Team, agents of Harcourt UK (Heinemann, Ginn & Rugby) in Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, U.A.E and K.S.A. was a key participant providing insight into many of the offered solutions at the event.

The team also contributed in terms of providing valuable data about the region and sharing the wealth of experiences that it had acquired there. The feedback our team received was crucial in helping us better understand our markets and teachers' needs so we could maximize our service efficiency.

**“The conference also turned out to be such a great way to communicate the obstacles as well as the challenges facing all of us out there in the field and has been instrumental in our working out these obstacles and finding solutions to some of them.”**

Mark Kuo, Malaysia

## How do I get and keep control (How do I discipline)?

Good discipline, good control, does not just happen - it is the result of careful planning, consistently implemented.

1. You must know what you want, what you expect of students
2. You must convey your expectations to your students
3. You must make them accountable by having them sign an agreement (ie: your student/parent letter)
4. You must have a system of consequences and rewards which are fairly and consistently carried out
5. You must always treat a student professionally and with respect - never allow your anger at a student's misdeeds to impair your good judgement and jeopardize your career

<http://geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/4127/tutor.html>

## Frankfurt Bookfair 2006

India was the guest of honor at this year's Frankfurt bookfair which took place from the 4th to the 8th of October. Rearden's team, a nine time attendee of the event, came back once more with a trunk full of colorful ideas and exciting projects.

For many of the fair's participants, the event involved quite a bit of preparation and hard work, but it was worth the trouble when like-minded professionals and thinkers meet and exchange ideas or discuss the work of a new author. “Every time I come here I think what a nice bunch of people publishers from around the world are,” noted one Australian publisher. The lady was cradling or rather clutching in her hand a prized possession- a book that she had bought on the spot following a recommendation by a friendly British publisher.

Frankfurt Bookfair 2007 is going to take place from the 10th to the 14th of October 2007 and the Guest of Honor this time will be the Catalan Culture.

You can count on us on being there too!!!

## Eight ways to use music for teaching and learning



1. Music relaxes the mind and lowers stress levels that inhibit learning. When used effectively, it increases alpha levels in the brain, boosting memory and recall and allowing the brain to access reserve capacities.
2. Music stimulates and awakens, reviving bored or sleepy learners and increasing blood and oxygen flow to the brain.
3. Music is mathematical. Certain musical structures stimulate specialized brain circuits, allowing learners to decode complex ideas more easily.
5. Music inspires emotion, creating a clear passage to long-term memory.
6. Music is a stage-changer and can be used effectively to get students into an effective learning state.
7. Music is a universal language, uniquely capable of crossing cultural barriers and training in ethnic traditions and values. It can set a dramatic stage for lessons in history, foreign language, sociology, political studies and geography.
8. Music is a powerful anchor that moors learning in memory.

Want to know more?

[www.thelearningweb.net](http://www.thelearningweb.net)

## 15-minute Activities

### Don't Waste a Minute!

What do you do with those awkward moments that arise in every teacher's day, those times between classes or before specials, when there's no time for a new lesson but plenty of time for kids to act up? Try some mini lessons, quick activities that fill time without wasting it!

#### • Language Arts:

Have one student call out a noun, a second student call out an adjective, and a third student call out a verb. Ask a volunteer to use all three words in a sentence.

#### • Math:

Bingo/Doubling: Number cards (1 to 10), two sets

Each pair of children writes six even numbers between 2 and 20 on a piece of paper and draws a circle round each one.

Shuffle two sets of number cards and place them in a pile face down. Choose a child, who takes a card and says that number out loud.

Every pair doubles the card number. If the answer is one of the numbers on their page, they can cross it out. The first pair to cross out their six numbers wins.

This activity has been chosen from Abacus Mental Warm-up Activities: # 2 page 32 Check the last page to know more about Abacus Warm-up Activities.

[www.thelearningweb.net](http://www.thelearningweb.net)



## Icebreaker

Most teachers use an icebreaker activity or two to get to know their students at the start of the school year. That's why, each year, Education World provides a forum for teachers to share their favorite ideas.

**Passing Notes in Class.** Arrange students into pairs. If a student doesn't have a partner, that student can partner with you. Explain to students that they are going to write notes to their partners. (Students love this idea; it is something they are seldom encouraged to do!) Inform them that this note-writing activity has a couple of rules. First, they are not allowed to ask any questions in their notes; the purpose of the activity is to learn as much as possible about the other student without asking questions.

The other rule is that they cannot talk. That makes the activity harder, and students enjoy the challenge. Remind students that the best way to learn about someone else is to tell them things about yourself. Emphasize that it is easy to learn about others if you listen to what they say; in this case, students must “listen” to their partner's written words. Continue the activity for 15 to 30 minutes, depending on students' interest level and attention span. When the activity has run its course, stop the note writing and have each student introduce his or her partner to the class based on information learned from the note-writing. This activity usually results in lots of giggles; it's a great way to break the ice.

[www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson/lesson318.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson318.shtml)

**Is there a specific topic you'd like to read about? Any subject you need us to research for you? The Rearden team would be more than glad to help & provide you with all the information you need... Depending on your needs, we can research and write on the topics you select. You just have to send us your comments to:**  
[publications@rearden-educational.com](mailto:publications@rearden-educational.com)

**Would you like to share an experience, or help a teacher with constructive comments? Perhaps you would like to contribute an important article on education and for that all you need is to send it to:**  
[publications@rearden-educational.com](mailto:publications@rearden-educational.com)

## Kidshop & Mustard

An exotic kids' bookstore concept in the Middle East.

- > Celebrating birthdays and special holidays & organizing fun activities for children & schools, with book themes integral to the learning process
- > Securing a cozy, inviting & educational atmosphere that promotes reading
- > Having a blast with educational games, arts & crafts for all ages
- > Having total freedom in grabbing and reading books
- > Interacting with friendly, helpful & trained staff to make your choices easier
- > Engaging in weekly storytelling activities followed by theme-related applications

For more information:

[www.kidshopandmustard.com](http://www.kidshopandmustard.com)

