



Merit Software

Because You Want Results

In-depth Interactive Learning Tools

Reading | Writing | Vocabulary | Grammar | Mathematics

Elementary :: Secondary :: Special Education :: ESL :: Adult Education :: College Prep



In-depth Interactive Learning Tools
— Because You Want Results

About Us

Merit has been producing educational software since 1983. Its programs are designed to address the core competencies that students require to succeed.

In-house product development and close contact with customers enable us to produce effective, efficient and easy-to-use instructive technologies.

Our programs are known for providing context-sensitive tutorials for students and convenient record management features to aid teachers, tutors and parents.

You can expect a prompt and personal reply to any questions you may have.

Merit values highly the input we get from users. Many of our signature innovations started as conversations with teachers.

Your input is one of the major ways through which we have been able to continue to produce effective and easy-to-use educational products.

MERIT SOFTWARE

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Merit News

Introducing Book Punch® -

New literature-based reading and writing program

See page 16

Paragraph and Essay Punch® Online!

100% web-based editions provide the complete programs over the Internet.

See page 10

Research on Merit Software

*Merit Strengthens' Middle School Achievement—
New research shows Merit boosts reading/language arts test scores.*

See page 8

Merit Teaching Tips

along with other valuable resources to help you use software effectively are on our web site.

See page 50.

Merit Methodology

OVERVIEW

As students advance in school, they are expected to make meaningful contributions to academic discussions. To do so, students must be able to read for a purpose, analyze data, and communicate their ideas. Unfortunately, many students enter higher grades unable to read critically, understand math concepts, or express themselves clearly.

If not dealt with, the effect of these problems multiplies. Students and teachers become frustrated with a lack of progress over time.

Instructional software can be a great way to coordinate efforts and achieve the desired outcome.

Merit Software learning tools provide focus and direction for achieving academic success.

WHY MERIT WORKS

Merit Software gives everyone involved – teachers, tutors, parents and students – the tools and opportunities to improve learning and attain positive, measurable results.

The programs provide detailed coverage of the core competencies students require to succeed. Concepts in reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and math are covered from the basics to higher levels.

Students are given opportunities to apply concepts as they learn them. They learn to analyze and evaluate information over multiple subject areas and build skills across the curriculum.

Troublesome points are identified and broken down into understandable parts. Personalized explanations and tips are tailored to each student's response.

Built-in tracking permits teachers and tutors to discover quickly individual areas of concern and plan lessons in response to specific student needs.

Instructors receive a clear and current measure of student achievement. Options for meaningful communications with students, parents and administrators are increased.

A multi-sensory approach, made possible by including text-to-speech functionality in many of the English language programs, reaches out to students in ways beyond just reading text on a screen.

HOW MERIT WORKS

All Merit programs provide focused instruction for students and measurable results for teachers. An overview of instructional methods, by curriculum subject, is described below:

Reading Comprehension

Helps students to find the main idea, make inferences, and draw conclusions from texts. The software provides practice in strategies that develop comprehension. Students do a variety of exercises and their learning is reinforced by multiple forms of instruction. Additionally, the program can read aloud all questions and answers for emphasis.

Vocabulary

Developing a strong vocabulary requires an understanding of key roots and words. Merit helps students apply strategies to analyze words and acquire an extensive and accurate vocabulary. The instruction is delivered through a variety of engaging learning activities. The computer may enunciate all text elements of the programs.

Process Writing

Using Merit writing programs, students choose from a menu of topics, develop an idea, and create their own original work. Step-by-step prompts guide students through pre-writing, organizing, editing, and publishing.

Writing Mechanics and Grammar

Students are taught proper writing mechanics, usage and punctuation using Merit grammar software. The programs start with the basics and go on to more complicated elements of writing style. Students may elect to hear the exercises in addition to reading them on screen.

Math

Merit math software helps students develop problem-solving strategies in essential math concepts. The software breaks down the mathematical thought process into understandable steps and then gives students opportunities to apply what they have just learned. Students advance as they demonstrate readiness.

WHO MERIT HELPS

Merit helps a wide range of students master a variety of core skill areas. Some of the types of students that we help are listed below:

Elementary and Secondary Schools

Students apply language arts and math skills as they learn. They develop their critical thinking skills and overall ability to grasp difficult concepts and analyze information across subject areas.

Special Needs

Context-based instruction helps special education students overcome their difficulties with comprehension, problem solving, organizing, and communication skills.

Adult and Continuing Education

Merit covers the essential skills that returning students have forgotten, or never really mastered in the past. Self-paced and self-advancing lessons help students get to the right level quickly.

English Language Learners

English grammar, writing, and vocabulary are taught and explained in an easy-to-learn fashion.

Workplace

Communication and analytical skills are improved by using Merit as part of job training programs.

WHY MERIT IS DIFFERENT

Merit is one of the most powerful and useful learning tools available today.

Many educational technology providers make strong claims about what can be accomplished with their products. Other publishers have incorporated some of the same elements that can be found in Merit programs. However, it is the way Merit implements these techniques that makes Merit so effective.

Improves students' ability to think clearly.

Essential concepts in reading, writing and math are broken down into manageable parts and students apply skills as they learn them. The combination of these techniques develops their ability to synthesize information and make inferences.

Promotes direct and active learning.

Unlike other supplementary materials, Merit is not drill and practice or a passive display of lessons on a screen. Merit provides direct instruction of key curriculum concepts. While students use the programs, help is available in multiple forms, whenever they want it and as often they need it.

Does not replace teachers; it makes them more effective.

When teaching with Merit teachers are interrupted less frequently and have more class time to teach prepared lessons. In addition, the built-in tracking features help teachers know when they need to provide additional assistance to individual students.

Fits easily into almost any teaching style.

Merit is a flexible learning tool. It is not a pre-set curriculum. It helps teachers and tutors to be even more effective. Most teachers and tutors who use Merit are already doing good work before starting with the software—they just want to make their efforts more successful.



Research on Merit Software

With the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act, there came a call for “scientific-based” research on materials and methods used in schools. In response, Merit partnered with faculty at Marshall University’s Graduate School of Education to conduct rigorous research studies on its products.

Evaluations have been conducted at several schools, across different grade levels with different types of students, and in different subject areas. In each of the evaluations, students were divided into control versus treatment groups.

The results of these studies challenge the widely held idea that educational software is ineffective. More importantly, educators can expect to replicate these results when using Merit with their own students.

Key Conclusions:

Consistently Delivers Results – Gains were found at all schools that were tested, among all grade levels, across all socio-economic levels, and in different subject areas.

Big Impact on Students – Merit provides individualized, context-sensitive help throughout. Help is available to students in many forms, while they use the software, whenever they want it, and as often they need it.

Makes Teachers More Effective – With Merit, teachers are interrupted less frequently and have more class time to teach prepared lessons. In addition, the built-in tracking features help teachers discover when they need to provide additional assistance to individual students.

Merit’s Methodology Works – Providing intensive, direct instructional activities that are aligned to classroom lessons makes a significant difference in student achievement.

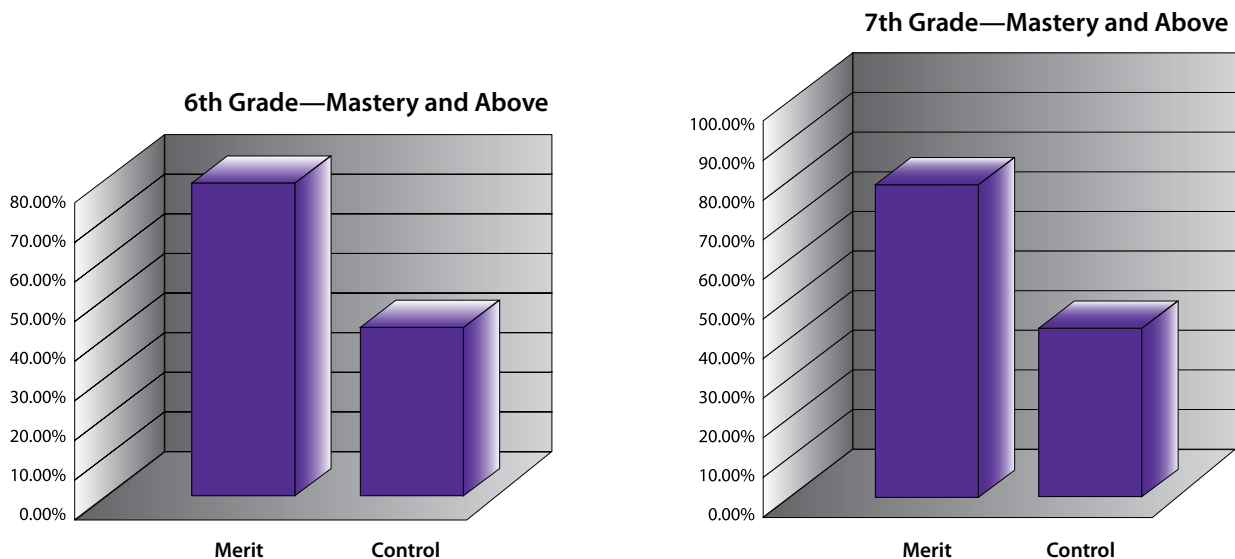
Merit Strengthens Middle School Achievement

Using Merit for 6 Months Boosts Reading / Language Arts Standardized Test Scores

Key Findings:

- Using Merit reading and writing software as a supplement to in-class instruction produced significant gains for randomly selected treatment group students.
- Year-end test scores for Reading/Language Arts averaged 30 points higher than test scores for students in the control group.
- An effect size of .94 was calculated for 6th graders' test scores, and .70 for 7th graders.
- 37% more 6th graders and 19% more 7th graders achieved Mastery or above on the state's performance rubric after using Merit.

For details about this research study and other research evaluations conducted on Merit go to <http://research.meritsoftware.com>



Process Writing

Starter Paragraph Punch

“Very structured in its purpose... Help for teachers who are looking for ways to meet the requirements of state writing assessments.”

– School Library Journal

Paragraph Punch

“Excellent software! Provides step-by-step writing instruction. Students are able to see their work along with suggestions for development.”

– Great Bridge Middle School
South Chesapeake, VA

Essay Punch

“An excellent product — especially, with the Revising Section that the students can work with to improve their writing.”

– University of Texas
Arlington, TX

Using Merit’s process writing software, students learn to present information in a paragraph, summary or essay format. In each program, students choose from a menu of topics, develop an idea, and create their own original work. Program prompts guide students step-by-step through pre-writing, writing, organizing, revising, editing, and publishing. Prompts encourage writing that is clear, concise, and comprehensible to the reader.

Our Teacher Management Program provides bookmarking and allows teachers to monitor their students’ progress. Students’ completed writing can be transferred to their own disks, or to a word processing program.

Curriculum Objectives

By using Merit Software writing process programs, students are tutored to:

- Use pre-writing strategies for different writing tasks.
- Write clear descriptive sentences.
- Focus writing on a central idea or topic.
- Develop relationships among ideas.
- Use supporting ideas, details, and facts to develop and elaborate topics.
- Develop an effective organizational pattern.
- Proofread to correct conventional errors in mechanics, usage, and punctuation.

**FREE
Try Before You
Buy!**

Try full-working
exercises of all
Merit programs.

See page 55.



STARTER PARAGRAPH PUNCH®

Skill levels 3 - 5

Students learn how to write a basic paragraph developed through reason, detail, example, and sequence. The program contains 16 writing topics and 1,628 help prompts to guide students through each step in the writing process.

Details / Reasons / Example / Sequence

Home version	45.00
1 Station: stand-alone	199.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	699.00
5 Stations: networkable	849.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,599.00
Site license	see page 55

PARAGRAPH PUNCH®

Skill levels 5 - 10

Helps students build their paragraph writing skills. Students learn different ways to write an effective paragraph developed by reason, detail, sequence, example, and cause and effect. The program contains 15 writing topics and 1,548 help prompts to guide students through each step in the writing process.

Reasons / Details / Example / Cause and Effects / Sequence

Home version	45.00
1 Station: stand-alone	199.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	699.00
5 Stations: networkable	849.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,599.00
Site license	see page 55

ESSAY PUNCH®

Skill levels 7 to adult

Essay Punch helps students learn to write short persuasive, informative, and descriptive essays. The program contains 9 writing topics and 1,080 help prompts to guide students through each step in the writing process.

Persuasion / Information / Description

Home version	45.00
1 Station: stand-alone	199.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	699.00
5 Stations: networkable	849.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,599.00
Site license	see page 55

100% web-based editions of the Punch® programs are now available!

Key Features

- Runs over the Internet -- accessible anytime, anywhere
- Platform independent, works with Macs, Windows and Linux
- Easy-to-use teacher management system included

Contact us for pricing.

When you buy the complete Language Arts Bundle for College Prep it's like getting **Essay Punch for FREE.**

See page 36.

Writing Mechanics • Grammar

Grammar Shape-Up

“I have not found a more accurate grammar program.”

– West Limestone High School
Lester, AL

Write It Right

“The students work on it easily and the drills are excellent for our state test.”

– Radford High School
Radford, VA

Grammar Fitness

“Effective and appropriate feedback.”

– Madison Junior High School
Middletown, OH

**All Merit programs
come with free
technical support.**

We provide
a toll-free 800
number
and free e-mail
support.

The Merit Software grammar and writing mechanics programs are self-paced improvement and management programs. They help students sharpen their grammar skills and let teachers monitor their students' independent learning. Additionally, with the Merit Text Talker, questions, answers, tips and explanations can be spoken aloud.

After taking a pre-test, students advance through the programs at their own pace. They are able to track their progress through progress-to-date session scores. Student scores are kept in a management system that allows teachers to view and print reports.

Curriculum Objectives

By using Merit Software grammar programs, students:

- Proofread to correct conventional errors in mechanics, usage, and punctuation.
- Master the basic conventions of punctuation and capitalization.
- Master the correct use of various parts of speech in written work.





TOP CHOICE

GRAMMAR SHAPE-UP

Skill levels 6 - 10

Helps students master the parts of speech. They learn to recognize a word as a specific part of speech within context sentences. The program has 36 grammar lessons and 576 questions.

Recognizing Nouns / Recognizing Adjectives / Pronouns / Action, Linking, and Helping Verbs / Adverbs of Manner, of Place, of Time / Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Final Reviews

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

WRITE IT RIGHT

Skill levels 6 - 11

Helps students learn to correct common problems in writing, including faulty sentence structure, unclear meaning, misplaced modifiers, and grammatical shifts. Each text contains errors. Students may view what each possible correction looks like in the text before entering their choice. Each set contains 63 texts and 126 questions.

Set 1: WRITE IT RIGHT

Skill levels 6 - 8

Set 2: WRITE IT RIGHT FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 9 - 11

Specify set when ordering:

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

WRITE IT RIGHT Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55

GRAMMAR FITNESS

Skill levels 4 - 8

Helps students cope with many troublesome points of grammar, including usage, diction, idioms, grammatical relationships, and punctuation. Each set contains 42 grammar concepts and 462 questions.

Set 1: GRAMMAR FITNESS

Skill levels 4 - 5

Set 2: GRAMMAR FITNESS

Skill levels 6 - 8

Specify set when ordering:

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

GRAMMAR FITNESS Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55



TOP CHOICE

GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 7 - 10

Helps students cope with additional points of grammar, including agreement of subject and verb, dangling modifiers, split constructions, shifts in voice, and faulty parallelism. Each set contains 42 grammar concepts and 462 questions.

Set 3: GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 7 - 8

Set 4: GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 9 - 10

Specify set when ordering:

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES Series

Contains Sets 3 and 4

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55

Merit field-tested
Teaching Tips
help you to use
software effectively
in the classroom.

Teaching Tips come
with every
Merit program!

Vocabulary

Vocabulary Fitness

“I love the software because it tells the students why they got problems wrong and it gives them correct examples.”

– Irvine Valley College
Irvine, CA

Vocabulary Stretch

“Wonderful for improving students’ vocabulary skills.”

– Harlan Community High School
Harlan, IA

“My students actually scramble to get time on it.”

– Couer D’Alene Public Schools
Couer D’Alene, ID

Merit vocabulary programs build students’ vocabulary with engaging activities matched to their abilities. Each lesson builds word awareness and provides a foundation for appropriate word usage. Includes the Merit Text Talker to help students learn the correct pronunciation of vocabulary words.

Lessons are self-paced and self-advancing. Data pertinent to students’ progress and achievement is easily accessible to teachers and tutors.

Curriculum Objectives

By using Vocabulary Fitness and Vocabulary Stretch, students:

- Develop a variety of strategies to analyze words.
- Use context and word structure clues.
- Demonstrate ability to understand an extensive and accurate vocabulary.
- Gain effective word choice skills.

Keep apprised of student progress with Merit’s Teacher Program Manager.

See page 52.





VOCABULARY FITNESS

Skill levels 4 - 9

Helps students master commonly confused and misused words. Each set contains 36 vocabulary lessons and 396 questions.

Set 1: VOCABULARY FITNESS

Skill levels 4 - 6

Set 2: VOCABULARY FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 7 - 9

Specify set when ordering:

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

VOCABULARY FITNESS Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55

VOCABULARY STRETCH

Skill levels 4 - 9

Helps students build vocabulary, recognize words in different contexts, and understand where many English words come from. There are 96 vocabulary activities and 720 questions per set.

Set 1: VOCABULARY STRETCH

Skill levels 4 - 6

Set 2: VOCABULARY STRETCH

Skill levels 7 - 9

Specify set when ordering:

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

VOCABULARY STRETCH Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55

VOCABULARY SUPER STRETCH

Skill levels 9 - 11

Same format as Vocabulary Stretch. Helps the student recognize more challenging words in different contexts, and understand where many English words come from. There are 108 vocabulary words and 920 questions per set.

Set 1: VOCABULARY SUPER STRETCH

Skill levels 9 - 10

Set 2: VOCABULARY SUPER STRETCH

Skill levels 10 - 11

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

VOCABULARY SUPER STRETCH Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55

Did you know that students can purchase a personal Home version of any Merit program?

See page 51.

Book Punch[®]

Interactive Response to Literature Teaching Tools

HIGHEST RATING!

“There are multiple prompts to help students and keep them on track...”

The instructor site is easy to use with easily accessible links to check pupil progress.”

~ Utah Instructional
Materials Commission

Book Punch provides interactive writing prompts about well-known literature – the books most commonly taught in schools today. Hundreds of built-in tips support students as they brainstorm and write about what they have read. Students write about their personal experiences as they relate to themes in the books. They also write responses connecting details to infer a deeper meaning.

Pupils’ writing portfolios and progress are automatically tracked in an online management system.

Lesson plan aids, printable vocabulary worksheets and graphic organizers are provided for each book.

Curriculum Objectives

By using Book Punch, students will:

- Make personal connections to text
- Increase understanding of what has been read
- Go beyond understanding surface meaning
- Use pre-writing strategies for different writing tasks
- Write clear descriptive sentences
- Develop relationships between ideas
- Proofread to correct errors in usage and punctuation
- Analyze and revise drafts to develop a stronger piece of writing

Available Titles:

Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon
Because of Winn Dixie
Blue Willow
Chocolate Fever
Dragonwings
The Egypt Game
Flat Stanley
Frindle
From the Mixed-up Files of
Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup
In the Year of the Boar and
Jackie Robinson
The Island of the Blue Dolphins
A Jar of Dreams
Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William
McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth
A Lion to Guard Us
The Lion, the Witch and
the Wardrobe
Little House in the Big Woods
The Magic Finger

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
My Brother Sam Is Dead
The Private Notebook of Katie
Roberts, Age 11
Ramona Quimby, Age 8
Sarah, Plain and Tall
Stone Fox
The Bully
Tornado
The Trumpet of the Swan

BOOK PUNCH

PRICING FOR ONE (1) BOOK

(One-year online access)

1 Student 29.00
Up to 5 Students 85.00
Up to 10 Students 105.00
Up to 20 Students 125.00
Up to 30 Students 149.00
More than 30 Students Contact Us

PRICING FOR ANY FIVE (5) BOOKS

(One-year online access)

1 Student 89.00
Up to 5 Students 255.00
Up to 10 Students 315.00
Up to 20 Students 375.00
Up to 30 Students 449.00
More than 30 Students Contact Us

100% web-based, runs over the Internet!

Key Features:

- Accessible anytime, anywhere
- Works with Mac, Windows and Linux
- Easy-to-use teacher management system included
- Free lesson plan aids for each book

Go to www.BookPunch.com to try free sample activities.

Reading Comprehension (Basic)

Reading Shape-Up

“Very useful. Reading passages capture the attention of my reluctant readers.”

– Boutte Adult Learning Center
Luling, LA

“Thanks for making educational software that engages the video game generation.”

– J.F. Webb High School
Oxford, NC

Merit reading comprehension software is a tool that helps students learn and apply proven reading improvement strategies. Using an assessment, the programs provide targeted instruction in individual areas of concern. Students receive contextual help and feedback throughout. For extra support, they may elect to hear the exercises spoken aloud in addition to reading them on the screen.

The programs seamlessly integrate into our proprietary teacher management system. As a result, frequent progress reports are available for teachers and students to view and print.

Curriculum Objectives

By using Merit basic reading comprehension software, students:

- Learn to respond to essential questions about passages.
- Determine main idea.
- Identify sequence of details.
- Draw inference by recognizing something learned from the passage that is not actually stated.
- Determine meaning of unfamiliar words.

Using Merit Software on *multiple computers* is easy, convenient and efficient.

See page 53.



EARLY READING BOOSTER

Skill levels 2 - 3

Through a variety of exercises, students develop vocabulary-in-context, main idea, detail, sequence and inference skills. Contains 64 illustrated passages and 512 questions.

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

READING SHAPE-UP Set 1

Skill levels 3 - 5

Helps students master specific reading skills: vocabulary, sequence, main idea, fact-opinion, factual recall, and inference. A tutor introduces each skill. Set contains 144 passages and 302 questions.

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

See page 21 for

READING SHAPE-UP Set 2

Skill levels 6 - 8

READING SHAPE-UP Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Set 1: Skill levels 3 - 5

Set 2: Skill levels 6 - 8

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55



READING COMPREHENSION BOOSTER

Skill levels 3 - 5

Helps students sharpen their critical thinking skills. Students work with exercises to determine main idea, make inferences, and draw conclusions. Contains 120 passages and 1,320 questions.

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

Reading
Comprehension
Booster
is included in the
Basic Skills Pack.

See page 30.

Reading Comprehension (Intermediate)

Developing Critical Thinking Skills For Effective Reading

“The students like the instant feedback and the ability to keep working until they are successful.”

– Yuba Community College
Marysville, CA

“It’s the perfect enrichment for my program. My students are eager to use it.”

– Klein Middle School
Harrison, NY

Reading Shape-Up, Set 2 is included in the **Intermediate Skills Pack.**

See page 32.

Curriculum Objectives

By using **Developing Critical Thinking Skills**, students:

- Extract salient information from texts.
- Determine main idea.
- Identify sequence of details.
- Draw inference by recognizing something learned from the text that is not actually stated.
- Use contextual clues and organizational patterns to infer meaning of unfamiliar words.



DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING

Skill levels 5 - 8

Helps students sharpen their critical thinking skills and develop their ability to make inferences. Text topics range from history and culture, to nature and science, to famous personalities and unusual facts. Each set contains 60 passages and 600 questions.

Set 1:
DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING
Skill levels 5 - 6

Set 2:
DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING
Skill levels 7 - 8

DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING Series
Contains Sets 1 and 2

Specify set when ordering:

Home version 39.00
1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
5 Stations: networkable 699.00
10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
Site license see page 55

Home version N/A
1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
Site license see page 55



Curriculum Objectives

By using **Accu-Reading** and **Reading Shape-Up**, students:

- Extract salient information from texts.
- Learn to respond to essential questions about texts.
- Determine main idea.
- Identify sequence of details.
- Use contextual clues and organizational patterns to infer meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Distinguish fact from opinion.
- Draw conclusions based on relevant information in a passage.

ACCU-READING Set 1

Skill levels 5 - 8

Helps students master specific reading skills: main idea, vocabulary, sequence, factual recall, inference, and drawing conclusions. Skill questions are based on short non-fiction texts. Set contains 144 passages and 302 questions.

Home version 39.00
 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
 Site license see page 55

See page 23 for

ACCU-READING Set 2

Skill levels 8 - 11

ACCU-READING Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Set 1: Skill levels 5 - 8

Set 2: Skill levels 8 - 11

Home version N/A
 1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
 5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
 10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
 Site license see page 55

READING SHAPE-UP Set 2

Skill levels 6 - 8

Helps students master specific reading skills: vocabulary, sequence, main idea, fact-opinion, factual recall, and inference. A tutor introduces each skill. Set contains 144 passages and 302 questions.

Home version 39.00
 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
 Site license see page 55

See page 19 for

READING SHAPE-UP Set 1

Skill levels 3 - 5

READING SHAPE-UP Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Set 1: Skill levels 3 - 5

Set 2: Skill levels 6 - 8

Home version N/A
 1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
 5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
 10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
 Site license see page 55

Accu-Reading

“Students enjoy using the program...builds skills as they work.”

– Salem Middle School
 Salem, NJ

Reading Shape-Up

“Teachers love it as a supplement to their teaching.”

– Wayland-Cohocton Central School
 Wayland, NY

Teaching Tips come with every Merit program!

Merit field-tested **Teaching Tips** help you to use software effectively in the classroom.

Reading Comprehension (College Prep)

Accu-Reading

“Very good for diagnosing students’ skills.”

– Spencer County High School
Taylorsville, KY

“Fantastic that students have to answer questions about topic sentences. This really helps students improve their reading comprehension.”

– Trident Technical College
Charleston, SC

Merit college prep reading software provides students with hands-on practice in using reading improvement strategies. Assessments place students in appropriate units of instruction. Sessions, time-on-task, and individual improvement are all tracked. Additionally, the program can read aloud all questions and answers. A record management system automatically records scores and allows teachers to view and print detailed reports.

Curriculum Objectives

By using Merit college prep reading comprehension software, students:

- Analyze, interpret, and evaluate challenging texts.
- Determine main idea.
- Identify sequence of details.
- Draw inference by recognizing something learned from the text that is not actually stated.
- Use contextual clues and organizational patterns to infer meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Connect ideas and recognize themes in passages.

Buy bundled software and save at least 40% over buying individual programs separately.

See pages 30-47.





ACCU-READING Set 2

Skill levels 8 - 11

Helps students master specific reading skills: main idea, vocabulary, sequence, factual recall, inference, and drawing conclusions. Skill questions are based on challenging non-fiction texts. Set contains 144 passages and 302 questions.

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

See page 19 for

ACCU-READING Set 1

Skill levels 5 - 8

ACCU-READING Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Set 1: Skill levels 5 - 8

Set 2: Skill levels 8 - 11

- Home version N/A
- 1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
- Site license see page 55

DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 8 - 11

Same format as Developing Critical Thinking Skills for Effective Reading. Provides longer and more challenging texts for the more advanced reader. Each set contains 60 passages and 600 questions.

Set 3: DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 8 - 9

Set 4: DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING FOR UPPER GRADES

Skill levels 10 - 11

Specify set when ordering:

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING FOR UPPER GRADES Series

Contains Sets 3 and 4

- Home version N/A
- 1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
- Site license see page 55

Developing Critical Thinking Skills For Effective Reading

“Great for students who want more vocabulary practice and practice identifying main ideas.”

– Lehman College
Bronx, NY

“Great for high school level.”

– West Mecklenberg High School
Charlotte, NC

Developing Critical Thinking Skills for Effective Reading for Upper Grades is included in two software bundles:

See page 34 for the GED Bundle.

See page 36 for the Language Arts Bundle for College Prep

Mathematics

“Students using Merit’s math software showed significant gains in their math and science scores, and improved critical thinking skills.”

– Dr. J.D. Jones
Marshall University
South Charleston, WV

Merit mathematics software helps students develop problem-solving strategies in essential math concepts, while giving instructors measurable results. The program format breaks down the mathematical thought process into understandable steps and then gives students opportunities to apply what they have just learned. A record management system automatically records scores and allows teachers to view and print detailed reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Work with integers, fractions, decimals, and percents
- Solve word problems and algebraic expressions
- Determine key data in word problems and find the answers
- Relate notation to meaning
- Interpret and apply information from graphs
- Use concrete objects to model algebraic concepts

Text Talker

Add text-to-speech
to your software
for just \$19

See page 49.

Word Problem Shape-Up

Curriculum Objectives

By using **Word Problem Shape-Up**, students:

- Determine which data in a word problem is needed to find the solution.
- Use key words to analyze the operations needed to solve problems.
- Solve problems using rounding, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

WORD PROBLEM SHAPE-UP

Math levels 5 - 9

Helps students interpret key words and solve word problems. Each problem is divided into individual steps: finding the correct numbers to use, finding the words that tell what to do with those numbers, and finding the solution. Each set contains 180 problems and 900 questions.

Set 1:
WHOLE NUMBERS
Math levels 5 - 7

Set 2:
**DECIMALS, FRACTIONS,
AND PERCENTS**
Math levels 6 - 8

Set 3:
**MIXED PRACTICE AND
MULTI-OPERATIONS: USING WHOLE
NUMBERS, FRACTIONS, DECIMALS,
AND PERCENTS**
Math levels 7 - 9

Specify set when ordering:

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

WORD PROBLEM SHAPE-UP Series

Contains Sets 1, 2, and 3

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	537.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,797.00
5 Stations: networkable	2,097.00
10 Stations: networkable	3,597.00
Site license	see page 55

Word Problem Shape-Up

“Great program – highly recommended!”

– North Central Vocational Center, Leslie, AR

“A truly interactive approach to learning.”

– Buchanan Middle School
Buchanan, MI

Fraction Shape-Up and Pre-Algebra Shape-Up

Fraction Shape-Up and Pre-Algebra Shape-Up

“Recommended Resources.”

– California Learning Resource Network

Curriculum Objectives

By using Fraction Shape-Up and Pre-Algebra Shape-Up, students:

- Use concrete objects to model algebraic concepts.
- Use key words to analyze the operations needed to solve problems.
- Understand word problems and how to apply equations.
- Interpret and apply information from graphs.

FRACTION SHAPE-UP

Math levels 3 - 5

This program helps students to master specific fraction skills. Each skill is introduced by a step-by-step tutorial. After practicing the steps, students explain the skill in their own words in a portfolio section. The program contains 512 problems and 1,250 questions.

Understanding Fractions / Exploring Fractions / Comparing Common Fractions / Mixed Numbers and Improper Fractions / Equivalent Fractions / Introduction to Ordering Fractions / Ordering Fractions with Different Denominators / Combining Fractions

Home version 39.00
 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
 Site license see page 55

PRE-ALGEBRA SHAPE-UP

Math levels 5 - 7

The program helps students to master specific pre-algebra skills. Each skill is introduced by a step-by-step tutorial. After practicing the steps, students explain the skill in their own words in a portfolio section. The program contains 450 problems and 1,125 questions.

Understanding Percent / Converting Metric Units / Ratios, Fractions, Percents / Words to Numbers / Introducing Equations / Line and Bar Graphs / Pie Charts

Home version 39.00
 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
 Site license see page 55

Fraction Shape-Up is included in the **Basic Skills Pack**.

See page 30.

Pre-Algebra Shape-Up is included in the **Intermediate Skills Pack**.

See page 32.

Basic Algebra Shape-Up

Curriculum Objectives

By using **Basic Algebra Shape-Up**, students:

- Use concrete objects to model algebraic concepts.
- Use key words to analyze the operations needed to solve problems.
- Understand word problems and how to apply equations.
- Interpret and apply information from graphs.
- Evaluate algebraic expressions.
- Learn how to solve algebraic equations.

BASIC ALGEBRA SHAPE-UP Set 1

Math levels 6 - 9

The program uses word problems to introduce basic algebra concepts and helps students to master specific basic algebra skills. Each skill is introduced by a step-by-step tutorial. After practicing the steps, students explain the skill in their own words in a portfolio section. The program contains 600 problems and 1,500 questions.

Set 1: USING WORD PROBLEMS TO INTRODUCE ALGEBRAIC CONCEPTS

Algebraic Approach to Solving Word Problems / Formulas for Finding Interest / Creating Formulas From Simple Data Tables / Using Ratios / Using Proportions / Using Scale

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

BASIC ALGEBRA SHAPE-UP Set 2

Math levels 6 - 9

The program introduces basic algebra concepts and helps students to master specific basic algebra skills. Each skill is introduced by a step-by-step tutorial. After practicing the steps, students explain the skill in their own words in a portfolio section. The program contains 600 problems and 1,500 questions.

Set 2: INTRODUCTION TO INTEGERS AND WORKING WITH ALGEBRAIC EXPRESSIONS AND EQUATIONS

Introducing Integers / Operations with Integers / Simplifying Expressions / Evaluating Expressions / Solving Multi-step Equations

Home version	39.00
1 Station: stand-alone	179.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	624.00
5 Stations: networkable	699.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
Site license	see page 55

BASIC ALGEBRA SHAPE-UP Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

Home version	N/A
1 Station: stand-alone	325.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,125.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,259.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,159.00
Site license	see page 55

Basic Algebra Shape-Up

“This is exactly the type of study I was looking for. It teaches instead of just quizzing. To learn to understand the operations is a blessing. I enjoy working with this program tremendously.”

– Customer Comment
Softpile.com

Basic Algebra Shape-Up is included in the GED Prep Bundle.

See page 34.

Careers

Business English Fitness

*“We’ve used the thunder
out of it! The students
really like it.”*

– Brown County Literacy Council
Brownwood, TX

*“A great training ground
for students.”*

– Smart Choice
Smart Computing Magazine

Reading Strategies For Career Success

*“We are very pleased
with the software. It’s one
more way to reach kids
who couldn’t be reached
otherwise.”*

– Kennedy High School
Chicago, IL

**FREE
Try Before You
Buy!**

Try full-working
exercises of all
Merit programs.

See page 55.

Merit careers software offers students a bridge between classroom learning and workplace success. The programs build reading and writing skills vital to effective job-related communication. Quick feedback, contextual help and the step-by-step format encourage students to learn independently. Additionally, with the Merit Text Talker all questions, answers, tips and explanations can be spoken aloud.

The programs seamlessly integrate into our proprietary teacher management system, allowing both teachers and students to print frequent progress reports. Merit careers software is also useful for companies wishing to provide employees with educational training.

Curriculum Objectives

By using Merit careers software, users:

- Learn strategies necessary for writing business letters.
- Gain familiarity with workplace vocabulary.
- Determine how to understand, analyze and make inferences from job-related reading material.
- Practice basic communication skills essential to advancing a career.
- Recognize job-related competencies still to be mastered.



BUSINESS ENGLISH FITNESS

Skill levels 9 - 11

Helps students recognize problems that commonly trouble writers in the workplace. Topics include sentence structure, logic, grammatical relationship, and punctuation. The program contains 24 grammar concepts and 264 questions.

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

BUSINESS LETTER PUNCH®

Skill levels 9 - 11

Helps students learn how to write effective business letters. Program prompts guide students step by step from pre-writing to publishing. The program contains 13 writing topics and 780 help prompts to guide students through the writing process.

Persuasion / Request/ Complaint and Response / Social Business

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

READING STRATEGIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Skill levels 8 - 11

Helps students to read career-oriented material critically. They develop the ability to answer inference questions through a variety of exercises, including writing their own sentences. Each set contains 36 passage and 360 questions.

Set 1: READING STRATEGIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Skill levels 8 - 9

Set 2: READING STRATEGIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Skill levels 10 - 11

Specify set when ordering:

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

READING STRATEGIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS Series

Contains Sets 1 and 2

- Home version N/A
- 1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
- Site license see page 55

WRITING FOR BUSINESS

Skill levels 9 - 11

Helps students learn how to write effective paragraphs useful in the business world. Program prompts guide students step by step from pre-writing to publishing. The program contains 15 writing topics and 1,548 help prompts to guide students through each step in the writing process.

Persuasion / Description / Explanation / Organization / Direction

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

Get all these career programs and more in the **Business Bundle**.

See page 38.

Reading Strategies For Career Success is included in the **GED Prep Bundle**.

See page 34.

2008 Basic Skills Pack

“Not only teaches key concepts, but accurately predicts students’ future scores on our state test.”

– Ocean Avenue Elementary School
Middletown, NJ

“The best thing I have ever bought. It’s out of this world. I love the automatic feedback and scoring.”

– Cedarville Middle School
Cedarville, AR

Basic Skills for Skill Levels 3 – 5

The 2008 Basic Skills Pack contains a group of Merit Software programs bundled together – selected to cover core competencies necessary to improve a student’s basic skills. The complete series contains a wide variety of teaching activities proven effective in increasing a student’s basic skills. Voice support is available with most of the English skills programs. Our Teacher Program Manager bookmarks student progress and allows teachers to track scores and create reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Contains everything in the Reading / Vocabulary Basic Skills Curriculum, the Writing / Grammar Basic Skills Curriculum, and the Mathematics Basic Skills Curriculum.
- Contains programs recognized for excellence by education leaders such as School Library Journal, TESOL, and CLRN.
- Covers more than 30 core competencies necessary to improve a student’s basic skills.
- Provides in-depth and interactive feedback for each question.
- Offers hundreds of critical thinking and problem-solving activities.
- Builds fundamentals of test taking skills.
- Helps students gain confidence as they assess their own skills.
- Includes easy-to-use multiple student tracking.

Buy bundled software and save at least 40% over buying individual programs separately.

See pages 30-47.



NOTE: Fraction Shape-Up, and Word Problem Shape-Up are not Text Talker enabled at this time.

**BASIC SKILLS PACK
READING / VOCABULARY
CURRICULUM**

- Determine the main idea
- Identify sequence of details
- Draw inferences from text
- Draw conclusions
- Understand vocabulary from context
- Use context clues
- Increase word recognition
- Differentiate fact from opinion
- Recall facts and details

The following programs are included:

- EARLY READING BOOSTER
- READING COMPREHENSION BOOSTER
- READING SHAPE-UP
Set 1
- VOCABULARY STRETCH
Set 1

**READING / VOCABULARY
BASIC SKILLS CURRICULUM**

Home version	125.00
1 Station: stand-alone	575.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,995.00
5 Stations: networkable	2,239.00
10 Stations: networkable	3,839.00
Site license	see page 55

**BASIC SKILLS PACK
WRITING / GRAMMAR
CURRICULUM**

- Recognize common errors in word usage
- Identify parts of speech in context sentences
- Identify common writing problems
- Use pre-writing strategies
- Correct faulty sentence structure
- Review basic punctuation
- Write clear, descriptive sentences
- Organize ideas
- Develop a paragraph
- Practice proofreading

The following programs are included:

- BASIC ENGLISH FITNESS
Set 1
- GRAMMAR FITNESS
Set 1
- STARTER PARAGRAPH PUNCH

**WRITING / GRAMMAR
BASIC SKILLS CURRICULUM**

Home version	99.00
1 Station: stand-alone	449.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,559.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,799.00
10 Stations: networkable	3,299.00
Site license	see page 55

**BASIC SKILLS PACK
MATHEMATICS
CURRICULUM**

- Practice using addition and subtraction
- Identify areas of weakness with whole numbers
- Break down word problems into steps
- Understand what fractions mean
- Relate fractions to decimals and percents
- Make equivalent fractions
- Compare and order fractions
- Add and subtract fractions

The following programs are included:

- FRACTION SHAPE-UP
- WORD PROBLEM SHAPE-UP
Set 1

**MATHEMATICS
BASIC SKILLS CURRICULUM**

Home version	65.00
1 Station: stand-alone	289.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	999.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,119.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,919.00
Site license	see page 55

The 2008 Basic Skills Pack saves at least 40% over buying individual programs separately.

**BASIC SKILLS PACK
COMPLETE CURRICULUM**

Skill levels 3 – 5

Home version	215.00
1 Station: stand-alone	989.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	3,415.00
5 Stations: networkable	3,869.00
10 Stations: networkable	6,795.00
Site license	see page 55



2008 Intermediate Skills Pack

“We like the testing, teaching, and retesting aspect of the programs along with the tracking and printing capabilities. These programs are the most popular in our lab.”

– Rose State College
Oklahoma City, OK

Intermediate Skills for Skill Levels 5 – 8

The 2008 Intermediate Skills Pack contains a group of Merit Software programs bundled together – selected to cover core competencies necessary to build upon students’ basic skills. The complete series contains a wide variety of teaching activities proven effective in increasing students’ capabilities. Voice support is available with most of the English skills programs. Our Teacher Program Manager bookmarks student progress and allows teachers to track scores and create reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Contains everything in the Reading / Vocabulary Intermediate Skills Curriculum, the Writing / Grammar Intermediate Skills Curriculum, and the Mathematics Intermediate Skills Curriculum.
- Contains programs recognized for excellence by education leaders such as School Library Journal, TESOL, and CLRN.
- Covers more than 30 core competencies necessary to improve a student’s basic skills.
- Provides in-depth and interactive feedback for each question.
- Offers hundreds of critical thinking and problem-solving activities.
- Builds fundamentals of test taking skills.
- Helps students gain confidence as they assess their own skills.

Merit Software
on multiple
computers is
easy, convenient
and efficient.

See page 53.



NOTE: Pre-Algebra Shape-Up and Word Problem Shape-Up are not Text Talker enabled at this time.

**INTERMEDIATE SKILLS PACK
READING / VOCABULARY
CURRICULUM**

- Determine the main idea
- Identify sequence of details
- Draw inferences from text
- Draw conclusions
- Understand vocabulary from context
- Use context clues
- Increase word recognition
- Differentiate fact from opinion
- Recall facts and details

The following programs are included:

- **DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING**
Sets 1 and 2
- **READING SHAPE-UP**
Set 2
- **VOCABULARY FITNESS**
Set 1

**READING / VOCABULARY
INTERMEDIATE SKILLS CURRICULUM**

Home version	115.00
1 Station: stand-alone	545.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,895.00
5 Stations: networkable	2,125.00
10 Stations: networkable	3,645.00
Site license	see page 55

**INTERMEDIATE SKILLS PACK
WRITING / GRAMMAR
CURRICULUM**

- Recognize common errors in word usage
- Identify parts of speech in context sentences
- Identify common writing problems
- Use pre-writing strategies
- Correct faulty sentence structure
- Review basic punctuation
- Write clear, descriptive sentences
- Organize ideas
- Develop a paragraph
- Practice proofreading

The following programs are included:

- **GRAMMAR FITNESS**
Set 2
- **GRAMMAR SHAPE-UP**
- **PARAGRAPH PUNCH**

**WRITING / GRAMMAR
INTERMEDIATE SKILLS PACK
CURRICULUM**

Home version	99.00
1 Station: stand-alone	445.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,559.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,799.00
10 Stations: networkable	3,199.00
Site license	see page 55

**INTERMEDIATE SKILLS PACK
MATHEMATICS
CURRICULUM**

- Practice using multiplication, division
- Identify areas of weakness with fractions, decimals, percents
- Break down word problems into steps
- Use concrete objects to model algebraic concepts.
- Use key words to analyze the operations needed to solve problems.
- Understand word problems and how to apply equations.
- Interpret and apply information from graphs

The following programs are included:

- **PRE-ALGEBRA SHAPE-UP**
- **WORD PROBLEM SHAPE-UP**
Sets 1 and 2

**MATHEMATICS
INTERMEDIATE SKILLS PACK
CURRICULUM**

Home version	89.00
1 Station: stand-alone	429.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,499.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,679.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,879.00
Site license	see page 55

The 2008 Intermediate Skills Pack saves at least 40% over buying individual programs separately.

**INTERMEDIATE SKILLS PACK
COMPLETE CURRICULUM**

Skill levels 5 – 8

Home version	225.00
1 Station: stand-alone	1,065.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	3,715.00
5 Stations: networkable	4,205.00
10 Stations: networkable	7,295.00
Site license	see page 55



2008 GED Prep Bundle

“These programs have cut in half the time I used to spend preparing students to pass the GED exam.”

– Visalia Unified School District
Solano County, CA

“We’ve had great success with it.”

– New Castle Adult Education
New Castle, IN

“I’m pleased with the ease of using the software and very happy with the results. We really like the clues and feedback. They are very handy and I even write them down myself. It’s great for GED preparation. I supplement it with old GED tests.”

– Adult Literacy Center
Bristol, NH

The 2008 GED Prep Bundle contains a group of Merit Software programs selected to help adults complete the requirements for the General Education Development (GED) exam.

The GED Prep Bundle contains a wide variety of teaching activities that have been proven effective in increasing students’ ability to absorb information, to think about issues and topics, and to master skills relevant to GED success. Voice support is available with most of the English skills programs. A management system records student scores and allows instructors to view results and print reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Provides reading, critical thinking, writing and math exercises that help students practice the GED requirements.
- Covers the GED curriculum areas most troublesome for students.
- Provides in-depth and interactive feedback for each question.
- Offers hundreds of critical thinking and problem-solving activities.
- Helps students gauge their own skill levels and GED readiness.
- Builds test taking skills to enhance in-class work.
- Relates reading and writing exercises to workforce communication skills.
- Provides age-appropriate texts and formats for adult students.
- Includes easy-to-use, multiple student tracking.

**FREE
Try Before You
Buy!**

Try full-working
exercises of all
Merit programs.

See page 55.



NOTE: Basic Algebra Shape-Up and Word Problem Shape-Up are not Text Talker enabled at this time.

LANGUAGE ARTS: Reading and Critical Thinking Skills

- Understand vocabulary from context by recognizing context clues
- Determine the main idea of reading passages
- Identify sequence of details in reading passages
- Recall facts and details
- Draw inferences from text
- Draw conclusions by choosing salient information from text
- Understand, analyze and interpret written materials based on work-related topics

The following programs are included:

- **DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING FOR UPPER GRADES**
Sets 3 and 4
- **READING STRATEGIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS**
Sets 1 and 2

LANGUAGE ARTS: Writing Skills

- Build writing strategies and skills for creating and completing short essays
- Build writing strategies and skills for work-related communication
- Use pre-writing strategies
- Organize ideas
- Focus writing on a central topic
- Support and elaborate on ideas with detail and facts
- Create and organize paragraphs
- Identify common problems in writing, usage and punctuation
- Analyze and revise drafts to strengthen writing

The following programs are included:

- **ESSAY PUNCH**
- **GRAMMAR FITNESS**
Set 2
- **GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES**
Set 3
- **WRITING FOR BUSINESS**

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Master social studies reading comprehension skills
- Develop understanding of history, geography, civics, government, and economics content
- Practice comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation questions
- Learn to comprehend charts, maps, tables, political cartoons
- Use U.S. historical documents as source materials

The following program is included:

- **SOCIAL STUDIES READING FOR COLLEGE PREP**

SCIENCE

- Master science reading comprehension skills
- Develop understanding of life science, physical science, earth science, and space science content
- Practice answering comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation questions
- Learn to comprehend charts, maps, tables, diagrams
- Gain science reading vocabulary

The following program is included:

- **SCIENCE READING FOR COLLEGE PREP**

MATHEMATICS: Computation and Problem-Solving Skills

- Practice the basics of algebra
- Work with formulas
- Use operations with integers
- Simplify expressions
- Solve multi-step equations
- Apply algebra to solve word problems
- Break down word problems into steps
- Relate word problem language to math
- Use key words to choose operations and set up equations
- Work with real-life word problems
- Interpret information from graphs
- Analyze data tables

The following programs are included:

- **BASIC ALGEBRA SHAPE-UP**
Sets 1 and 2
- **WORD PROBLEM SHAPE-UP**
Sets 2 and 3

The 2008 GED Prep Bundle saves at least 40% over buying individual programs separately.

GED PREP BUNDLE

Home version	249.00
1 Station: stand-alone	1,189.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	4,129.00
5 Stations: networkable	4,699.00
10 Stations: networkable	8,199.00
Site license	see page 55

2008 Language Arts Bundle for College Prep

“Clear and effective.”

– Kodiak Community College
Kodiak, AK

“Great software.”

– Coeburn High School
Coeburn, VA

*“Easy to use.
My students love the
programs!”*

– Moreno Valley High School
Moreno Valley, CA

*“Ideal for language arts
instruction.”*

– Jackson State Community
College
Jackson, TN

*“The students like it
better than the other
programs they can
choose from.”*

– Mount San Antonio College
Walnut, CA

Merit Teaching
Tips, along with
other valuable
resources to help
you use software
effectively, are on
our web site.

See page 50.

Skill Levels 9 and Above to Prepare Students for College Level Work

The 2008 Language Arts Bundle for College Prep contains a group of Merit Software programs selected to cover language arts competencies necessary to prepare a student for college work. The complete series contains a wide variety of teaching activities proven effective in increasing students' language arts skills. It contains age-appropriate texts and formats for older students. Additionally, the program can read aloud all questions and answers. Multiple student tracking, record keeping, and bookmarking are included in both stand-alone and network versions.

Curriculum Objectives

Featuring writing, grammar, reading, and vocabulary curriculum for skill levels 9 and above

- Covers competencies necessary to prepare a student for college level work.
- Bridges high school and pre-college language arts skills.
- Helps students assess skill areas needing practice.
- Offers hundreds of critical thinking and problem-solving activities.
- Provides in-depth and interactive feedback for each question.
- Provides age-appropriate texts and formats for older students.
- Is helpful for ACT, SAT and TOEFL preparation.
- Includes easy-to-use, multiple student tracking.



GRAMMAR CURRICULUM SKILLS

- Identify common usage, writing mechanics and punctuation problems
- Recognize conventional errors in sentence structure
- View and correct faulty sentence structure
- Recognize common errors in word usage
- Identify common writing problems
- Correct faulty sentence structure

The following programs are included:

- **GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES**
Sets 3 and 4
- **WRITE IT RIGHT**
Set 2

GRAMMAR LANGUAGE ARTS BUNDLE CURRICULUM

Home version	65.00
1 Station: stand-alone	289.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	999.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,119.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,919.00
Site license	see page 55

READING COMPREHENSION CURRICULUM SKILLS

- Determine the main idea of text and select a sentence to introduce or complete it
- Understand the relationship between title and main idea
- Identify sequence of details from reading passages
- Draw inferences from text by using vocabulary or organizational patterns
- Draw conclusions by choosing salient information from text
- Differentiate between fact and opinion
- Recall facts and details

The following programs are included:

- **ACCU-READING**
Set 2
- **DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE READING FOR UPPER GRADES**
Sets 3 and 4

READING COMPREHENSION LANGUAGE ARTS BUNDLE CURRICULUM

Home version	89.00
1 Station: stand-alone	399.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,399.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,569.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,689.00
Site license	see page 55

VOCABULARY CURRICULUM SKILLS

- Develop a variety of strategies to analyze words
- Use context and word structure clues
- Gain effective word choice skills

The following programs are included:

- **VOCABULARY FITNESS**
Set 2
- **VOCABULARY SUPER STRETCH**
Sets 1 and 2

VOCABULARY LANGUAGE ARTS BUNDLE CURRICULUM

Home version	89.00
1 Station: stand-alone	399.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,399.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,569.00
10 Stations: networkable	2,689.00
Site license	see page 55

WRITING CURRICULUM SKILLS

- Develop an effective organizational pattern for an essay
- Use supporting ideas, details, and facts to develop and elaborate topics
- Analyze and revise a draft to further develop an essay

WRITING CURRICULUM CONSISTS ENTIRELY OF ONE PROGRAM, ESSAY PUNCH.

See page 11 for Essay Punch pricing.

Buy the complete 2008 Language Arts Bundle For College Prep and save at least 40% over buying individual programs separately.

LANGUAGE ARTS BUNDLE FOR COLLEGE PREP COMPLETE CURRICULUM

Skill levels 9 and above

Home version	199.00
1 Station: stand-alone	935.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	3,269.00
5 Stations: networkable	3,699.00
10 Stations: networkable	6,435.00
Site license	see page 55

Get Essay Punch for Free when you purchase the complete Language Arts Bundle for College Prep.

Get the most for your money by purchasing the complete Language Arts Bundle for College Prep!

2008 Business Bundle

“We’ve been very satisfied with the software. It’s an integral part of our training program for displaced workers.”

– Workforce Employment & Training Center
San Juan, PR

“Few reading programs are appropriate for adults and Merit is great for this. It’s excellent for adult education.”

– Harford Community College
Bel Air, MD

The 2008 Business Bundle offers a bridge between classroom learning and workplace success. The programs build reading and writing skills vital to effective job-related communication. Merit’s quick feedback, contextual help, and step-by-step format encourage independent learning. Voice support is available with most of the programs. A management system tracks progress, allowing both instructors and students to print reports. Merit’s business software is useful for school, college, adult education, and training programs, as well as for companies wishing to improve employee business communication skills.

Curriculum Objectives

- Provides hundreds of reading, vocabulary, writing, and grammar exercises that help students practice workplace communication skills.
- Includes audio capability so students may quickly improve their speaking and listening skills.
- Introduces skills in an approachable way that holds students’ interest.
- Provides a structured and supportive environment that lets all students experience success.
- Offers clear visual cues and a step-by-step approach.
- Offers interactive and context-sensitive feedback, including detailed tip messages.
- Helps students gauge their own skill levels and progress.
- Provides texts and formats appropriate to older students.
- Includes easy-to-use multiple student tracking.

Merit Software
on multiple
computers is
easy, convenient
and efficient.

See page 53.



BUSINESS READING AND VOCABULARY

- Understand, interpret, and analyze employment-related texts
- Work with memos, reports, notices, and business letters
- Learn the correct pronunciation of vocabulary words
- Gain effective word recognition skills
- Extract the most salient information from a reading passage
- Recall facts and details
- Determine main idea
- Draw conclusions and inferences
- Identify sequence
- Respond to readings by writing sentences using key words

BUSINESS GRAMMAR AND WRITING

- Build writing strategies and skills for employment-related communication
- Recognize and correct common errors in word usage and sentence structure
- Recognize and correct shifts in voice and tense
- Understand parts of speech and grammatical relationships
- Learn and apply pre-writing strategies to business letters
- Focus writing around a central topic
- Write clear, complete and descriptive sentences
- Introduce, organize, and conclude a paragraph
- Express ideas coherently and confidently in business-letter form
- Improve word choice
- Improve writing style
- Proofread for capitals, punctuation, and spelling
- Save and publish finished work

The following programs are included:

- BUSINESS ENGLISH FITNESS
- BUSINESS LETTER PUNCH
- DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR UPPER GRADES
Sets 3 and 4
- GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES
Sets 3 and 4
- READING STRATEGIES FOR CAREER SUCCESS
Sets 1 and 2
- WRITING FOR BUSINESS

BUSINESS BUNDLE COMPLETE CURRICULUM

Home version	169.00
1 Station: stand-alone	775.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	2,695.00
5 Stations: networkable	3,085.00
10 Stations: networkable	5,435.00
Site license	see page 55

2008 ESL Beginning Skills Pack

“We have worked with many different software programs and yours is our absolute favorite. Our tutors love it!”

– The Learning Lab
Brentwood, TN

“Merit’s tips, explanations, and tracking help to make me a more effective teacher.”

– Calhoun County Middle/
High School
Mt. Zion, WV

To provide the most help for beginning English language learners, use Merit’s Picture Context Reader and Essential English Fitness. The programs are a convenient supplement to reading, writing, listening, and speaking instruction. Both programs provide context-sensitive and immediate feedback for students. Additionally, both programs are fully compatible with the Merit Text Talker, enabling them to hear words and texts spoken aloud. An easy-to-use management system tracks pupil progress and allows teachers to make reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Covers low beginning through high intermediate English language skills.
- Covers a range of topics including the home, family, the body and health, shopping, school, work, community resources, civics, social skills, and technology.
- Includes audio capability so students may quickly improve their pronunciation, intonation, and oral comprehension.
- Introduces skills in an approachable way that holds students’ interest.
- Provides a structured and supportive environment that lets all ESL students experience success.
- Offers clear visual clues and a step-by-step approach.
- Offers interactive and context-sensitive feedback.
- Helps students gain confidence as they assess their own English language proficiency.
- Includes easy-to-use multiple student tracking.

**All Merit programs
come with free
technical support.**

We provide
a toll-free 800 number
and free e-mail
support.





PICTURE CONTEXT READER

For Low Beginning - High Beginning English language learners

Helps students understand short sentences and improve their basic English literacy skills. Students see pictures relating to everyday situations, such as the body and health, family relationships, the home, shopping, and community resources. Emphasis is placed on learning nouns shown in the pictures. Students read and respond to complete sentences. They receive help and clear, contextual feedback throughout. Contains 54 illustrations and 216 questions.

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 629.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55



ESSENTIAL ENGLISH FITNESS

For High beginning - Low intermediate English language learners

Designed for students who need help in understanding and applying simple English grammar. Topics for context sentences include home, school, work, community activities, health, and shopping. Students read and respond to complete sentences. They receive help and clear, contextual feedback throughout. Contains 72 English grammar concepts and 792 questions.

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 629.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

ESL BEGINNING SKILLS PACK COMPLETE CURRICULUM

The following programs are included:

- PICTURE CONTEXT READER
- ESSENTIAL ENGLISH FITNESS

- Home version 65.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 289.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 999.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 1,119.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,919.00
- Site license see page 55

2008 ESL Midlevel Skills Pack

“These programs seriously address the critical areas of reading comprehension and vocabulary building.”

– Turn of River Middle School
Stamford, CT

“Even though our students are fairly limited in computer skills, they are very comfortable with the software.”

– Washtenaw Community College
Ann Arbor, MI

The 2008 ESL Midlevel Skills Pack consists of Merit Software programs that target students’ vocabulary, reading, grammar, listening and speaking skills. The complete series contains a wide variety of teaching activities proven effective in increasing students’ English language proficiency, and is designed for students starting to prepare for higher education. Content is relevant to real-life situations. Voice support is available. Our Teacher Program Manager tracks student progress and allows instructors to print reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Covers high intermediate through advanced English language skills.
- Covers a range of topics including family literacy, employment, civics, health, consumer economics, social skills, and technology.
- Includes audio capability so students may quickly improve their pronunciation, intonation, and oral comprehension.
- Introduces skills in an approachable way that holds students’ interest.
- Provides a structured and supportive environment that lets all ESL students experience success.
- Offers clear visual clues and a step-by-step approach.
- Offers interactive and context-sensitive feedback.
- Helps students gain confidence as they assess their own English language proficiency.
- Includes easy-to-use multiple student tracking.

**All Merit programs
come with
free technical
support.**

We provide
a toll-free 800 number
and free e-mail
support.



ESL MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PACK READING CURRICULUM

- Listen to words, passages, questions, and tips
- Read and respond to complete sentences
- Increase word recognition and English language vocabulary
- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using contextual clues
- Learn the correct pronunciation of vocabulary words
- Extract the most important information from passages
- Draw conclusions from English language texts
- Distinguish between fact and opinion in English language texts
- Respond to readings by writing sentences to show understanding

The following programs are included:

- **READING SHAPE-UP**
Sets 1 and 2
- **REAL WORLD READING SKILLS**
Sets 1 and 2

ESL MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PACK READING CURRICULUM

Home version	109.00
1 Station: stand-alone	519.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,799.00
5 Stations: networkable	2,015.00
10 Stations: networkable	3,455.00
Site license	see page 55

ESL MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PACK VOCABULARY CURRICULUM

- Listen to words, sentences, questions, and tips
- Read and respond to complete sentences
- Increase English language vocabulary
- Gain effective word recognition skills
- Boost recognition of prefixes, roots, suffixes, and word origins
- Practice applying vocabulary skills to new contexts
- Master commonly confused words
- Work in a single-concept or mixed-practice format

The following programs are included:

- **VOCABULARY FITNESS**
Set 1
- **VOCABULARY STRETCH**
Set 1

ESL MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PACK VOCABULARY CURRICULUM

Home version	65.00
1 Station: stand-alone	289.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	999.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,199.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,919.00
Site license	see page 55

ESL MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PACK COMPLETE CURRICULUM

Home version	179.00
1 Station: stand-alone	825.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	2,849.00
5 Stations: networkable	3,189.00
10 Stations: networkable	5,469.00
Site license	see page 55

ESL MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PACK GRAMMAR CURRICULUM

- Listen to words, sentences, questions, and tips
- Read and respond to complete sentences
- Build knowledge of English language grammar
- Recognize common errors in word usage
- Understand parts of speech
- Practice proper use of verb tenses
- Recognize problems in sentence structure
- Review the basics of punctuation
- Practice grammar in conversational form
- Work in a single-concept or mixed-practice format

The following programs are included:

- **BASIC ENGLISH FITNESS**
Set 1
- **GRAMMAR FITNESS**
Set 1

ESL MIDDLE LEVEL SKILLS PACK GRAMMAR CURRICULUM

Home version	65.00
1 Station: stand-alone	289.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	999.00
5 Stations: networkable	1,119.00
10 Stations: networkable	1,919.00
Site license	see page 55

**Get the most
for your money
by purchasing the
ESL Midlevel
Skills Pack!**

2008 ESL Advanced Skills Pack

“Excellent...students like using it. We love that students are placed in specific areas of need.”

– Mt. San Antonio
Community College
Walnut, CA

“Basic English Fitness is right on target for our ESL students.”

– Pascagoula School District
Pascagoula, MS

The **2008 ESL Advanced Skills Pack** consists of Merit Software programs that target students’ vocabulary, reading, grammar, writing, listening and speaking skills. The complete series contains a wide variety of teaching activities proven effective in increasing students’ English language proficiency. The ESL Advanced Skills Pack is designed for students needing to enhance their skills before preparing for the TOEFL. Content is relevant to real-life situations. Voice support is available. Our Teacher Program Manager tracks student progress and allows instructors to print reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Covers high intermediate through advanced English language skills.
- Covers a range of topics including civics, government, health, transportation, American culture, history, and technology.
- Includes audio capability so students may quickly improve their pronunciation, intonation, and oral comprehension.
- Introduces skills in an approachable way that holds students’ interest.
- Provides a structured and supportive environment that lets all ESL students experience success.
- Offers clear visual clues and a step-by-step approach.
- Offers interactive and context-sensitive feedback.
- Helps students gain confidence as they assess their own English language proficiency.
- Includes easy-to-use multiple student tracking.

FREE
Try Before You Buy!

Try full-working
exercises of all
Merit programs.

See page 55.



**ESL ADVANCED SKILLS PACK
READING/VOCABULARY
CURRICULUM**

- Listen to words, sentences, passages, questions, and tips
- Read and respond to complete sentences
- Build an advanced English language vocabulary
- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using contextual clues
- Learn the correct pronunciation of vocabulary words
- Extract the most important information from passages
- Draw conclusions from English language texts
- Distinguish between fact and opinion in English language texts
- Respond to readings by writing sentences to show understanding
- Practice applying vocabulary skills to new contexts
- Boost recognition of prefixes, roots, suffixes, and word origins
- Master commonly confused words
- Work in a single-concept or mixed-practice format

The following programs are included:

- **DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**
Sets 1 and 2
- **VOCABULARY FITNESS**
Set 2
- **VOCABULARY STRETCH**
Set 2

**ESL ADVANCED SKILLS PACK
READING/VOCABULARY
CURRICULUM**

Home version	115.00
1 Station: stand-alone	545.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	1,895.00
5 Stations: networkable	2,125.00
10 Stations: networkable	3,645.00
Site license	see page 55

**ESL ADVANCED SKILLS PACK
GRAMMAR/WRITING
CURRICULUM**

- Listen to words, sentences, passages, questions, and tips
- Read and respond to complete sentences
- Recognize common errors in word usage
- Understand parts of speech
- Practice proper use of verb tenses
- Recognize problems in sentence structure
- Practice grammar in a single-concept or mixed-practice format
- Choose from writing topics involving community, family, cooking, celebrating a traditional holiday, travel, and technology
- Write clear and descriptive sentences
- Express ideas coherently and fluently in paragraph form
- Improve writing style and sentence structure
- Improve word choice
- Proofread for punctuation and spelling
- Save and Publish finished work

The following programs are included:

- **BASIC ENGLISH FITNESS**
Set 2
- **GRAMMAR FITNESS**
Set 2
- **GRAMMAR SHAPE-UP**
- **PARAGRAPH PUNCH**

**ESL ADVANCED SKILLS PACK
GRAMMAR/ WRITING
CURRICULUM**

Home version	129.00
1 Station: stand-alone	589.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	2,059.00
5 Stations: networkable	2,359.00
10 Stations: networkable	4,159.00
Site license	see page 55

**ESL ADVANCED SKILLS PACK
COMPLETE CURRICULUM**

Home version	185.00
1 Station: stand-alone	849.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	2,965.00
5 Stations: networkable	3,365.00
10 Stations: networkable	5,855.00
Site license	see page 55



2008 TOEFL Prep Bundle

“Students especially like how the software scores their strengths, and identifies areas where they need further study.”

– Wallingford Adult Education
Wallingford, CT

The TOEFL Prep Bundle consists of Merit Software programs that help adults complete the requirements for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The series contains a wide variety of teaching activities proven effective in advancing students’ reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Merit reading and writing software builds test-taking skills, while emphasizing the content’s real-life relevance. Our Merit Text Talker helps students understand English as it is spoken in North American colleges. A management system tracks student progress and allows instructors to print reports.

Curriculum Objectives

- Provides reading, vocabulary and grammar exercises that help students practice areas of TOEFL emphasis
- Covers a range of topics including government, history, science, health, the arts, and American culture
- Includes audio capability so students may quickly improve their pronunciation, intonation, and oral comprehension.
- Enhances in-class TOEFL preparation by building test-taking skills
- Introduces skills in an approachable way that holds students’ interest
- Offers interactive and context-sensitive feedback.
- Offers clear visual clues and a step-by-step approach.
- Helps students gain confidence as they assess their own skill levels and TOEFL readiness
- Includes easy-to-use multiple student tracking.

*Teaching Tips come
with every
Merit program!*

Merit field-tested
Teaching Tips
help you to
use software effectively
in the classroom.



TOEFL PREP BUNDLE : READING CURRICULUM

- Build a college-level English language vocabulary
- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using contextual clues
- Learn the correct pronunciation of vocabulary words
- Boost recognition of prefixes, roots, suffixes, and word origins
- Match words to associated concepts
- Extract the most salient information from reading passages
- Break down and connect different kinds of ideas
- Use reasoning to judge information from reading passages
- Learn to summarize ideas by briefly rephrasing them
- Work with passages on biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, geography, technology, history, civics, government, economics, the arts, and American culture

The following programs are included:

- **ACCU-READING**
Sets 1 and 2
- **DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR UPPER GRADES**
Sets 3 and 4
- **VOCABULARY SUPER STRETCH**
Sets 1 and 2
- **SCIENCE READING FOR COLLEGE PREP**
- **SOCIAL STUDIES READING FOR COLLEGE PREP**

TOEFL PREP BUNDLE : STRUCTURE / WRITING CURRICULUM

- Advance knowledge of English language grammar
- Recognize common errors in usage
- Recognize shifts in voice and tense
- Review verb-subject agreement
- Recognize recurrent problems in sentence structure
- Practice grammar in conversational form
- Learn grammar in a single-concept or mixed-practice format
- Choose from writing topics involving education, community, civics, popular culture, technology, and personal experience
- Express ideas coherently and fluently in short essay form
- Develop short essays through argument, reasoning, example and use of detail
- Organize writing with an introduction, body, and conclusion
- Proofread for completeness and accuracy

The following programs are included:

- **ESSAY PUNCH**
- **GRAMMAR FITNESS FOR UPPER GRADES**
Sets 3 and 4
- **WRITE IT RIGHT**
Sets 1 and 2

TOEFL PREP BUNDLE : LISTENING CURRICULUM

- Learn proper pronunciation and intonation of North American English
- Listen to words, sentences, passages, questions, and help messages
- Learn the correct pronunciation of vocabulary words

The 2008 TOEFL Prep Bundle includes the Merit Text Talker to help students understand English as it is spoken in college and university settings.

TOEFL PREP BUNDLE: COMPLETE CURRICULUM

Home version	235.00
1 Station: stand-alone	1,085.00
5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone	3,779.00
5 Stations: networkable	4,269.00
10 Stations: networkable	7,395.00
Site license	see page 55

**All Merit programs
come with
free technical support.**

We provide
a toll-free 800 number
and free e-mail support.

Target Programs

For Subject Reading Comprehension:

SOCIAL STUDIES READING FOR COLLEGE PREP

Skill levels 9-12

Helps students apply reading comprehension skills to social studies content. All texts are illustrated and include comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation questions. Contains 10 texts and 100 questions.

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

SCIENCE READING FOR COLLEGE PREP

Skill levels 9-12

Helps students apply reading comprehension skills to science content. All texts are illustrated and include comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation questions. Contains 10 texts and 100 questions.

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

Text Talker

Add text-to-speech to your software for just \$19

See page 49.

REAL WORLD READING SKILLS

For High Intermediate English language learners and adult literacy students
Skill levels 4-6, content geared for older students

Students improve their English literacy and sharpen their ability to understand information in basic texts. Students read short texts, and respond to a variety of vocabulary and comprehension questions. Real-life topics include family literacy, employment, civics, health, consumer economics, social skills, and technology. Contains 36 passages and 190 questions.

Set 1:

REAL WORLD READING SKILLS

For Intermediate English language learners and adult literacy students
Skill levels 4-5

Set 2:

REAL WORLD READING SKILLS

For Intermediate English language learners and adult literacy students
Skill levels 5-6
More complex vocabulary and sentence structure.

Specify set when ordering:

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

REAL WORLD READING SKILLS SERIES

Contains Sets 1 and 2

- Home version N/A
- 1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
- Site license see page 55

For English Language Learners:

BASIC ENGLISH FITNESS

For High Intermediate English language learners

Designed for students who need help coping with common, troublesome points of English grammar. Topics for context sentences reflect real-life situations, such as home, family, school, work, shopping, health, and common cultural facts. Students read and respond to complete sentences. They receive help and clear, contextual feedback throughout. Contains 36 English grammar concepts and 396 questions.

Set 1:

BASIC ENGLISH FITNESS

For English language learners

Set 2:

BASIC ENGLISH FITNESS

For English language learners
More complex concepts.

Specify set when ordering:

- Home version 39.00
- 1 Station: stand-alone 179.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 624.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 699.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 1,199.00
- Site license see page 55

BASIC ENGLISH FITNESS SERIES

Contains Sets 1 and 2

- Home version N/A
- 1 Station: stand-alone 325.00
- 5 Pack: 1 station: stand-alone 1,125.00
- 5 Stations: networkable 1,259.00
- 10 Stations: networkable 2,159.00
- Site license see page 55

Merit Text Talker™

Merit Software Integrates Text-to-Speech Technology into Reading, Grammar, and Vocabulary Instruction

High-quality voices provide an additional method to support learning.

Research shows that a multi-sensory approach to learning shortens the time required to grasp English language concepts.

The Merit Text Talker, a new innovation, speaks text as it appears on the screen. Students experience the benefits of text-to-speech technology as a fully integrated part of Merit's reading, grammar, and vocabulary programs.

Users have the option to hear the passages, questions, answers, tips and explanations that they view on the screen spoken aloud. Students may select as much text as they would like to hear voiced, and they can hear it repeated as many times as they wish. While the text is voiced, each word is highlighted for extra emphasis as it is pronounced.

With just two clicks, students can command that text be spoken aloud without additional windows opening or closing. There is no copying and pasting of text, or toggling back and forth between applications.

The Merit Text Talker comes with two high-quality North American voices. Students may also use their own installed regional voice.

The Merit Text Talker is available for \$19 per computer.

Who will benefit by using the Merit Text Talker:

- English Language Learners
- Learning Disabled Students
- Remedial Readers

Look for the Merit Text Talker symbol to identify programs with this feature. See pages 54 and 55 for system requirements and ordering information.



Online Resources

Go online to www.meritsoftware.com to find a great deal of information for instructors beyond what we mention in our print literature.

Among the most popular online resources are:



Teaching Tips

Merit programs are used with a wide variety of students and in many different sorts of educational settings. Based on feedback from teachers, we have compiled many field-tested teaching tips.



Curriculum Questions and Answers

An ongoing web log of questions and answers relating to how Merit can help improve student skills.

www.meritsoftware.com/answers



Keep Informed of New Products and Updates

Sign up for the Merit Software Dispatch to get the latest Merit news sent directly to your inbox. Several years of past issues are also available in our online archive.

www.meritsoftware.com/newsletter.php

Merit Online Learning

The next generation of Merit Software is here. Full-featured, complete online versions of our Punch programs are now available for schools.

The 100% web-based editions provide the complete programs over the Internet.



Access Anywhere, Anytime

The new online Punch programs can be used at school or at home, libraries or tutoring centers, or just about anywhere.



Built-in Student Tracking

Teachers can track student progress from any computer and send their pupils personal comments.

Windows
Linux
Mac

Platform Independent

Windows Vista or XP, Macintosh and Linux users can now get the full benefit of the Punch programs!

Current Merit web-based programs include:

- Book Punch
- Essay Punch
- Paragraph Punch
- Starter Paragraph Punch

Contact us for pricing.

The Teacher Program Manager

All Merit desktop applications utilize a centralized student record keeping/management system utility program called the Teacher Program Manager (TPM).

The TPM comes **FREE** with the purchase of any Merit Software desktop program.



Manage Student Records

With the TPM and network versions of the software you can track the work of up to 1,000 students. You can easily delete old records once students have finished using the software.



The TPM helps teachers and administrators:

- Fulfill accountability standards for testing.
- Make informed school improvement decisions.
- Set and measure academic goals.
- Prepare targeted and individualized lessons.



With the TPM you can:

- Manage records for all Merit Software programs in one place.
- View/print records for an entire class.
- View/print details of an individual student record.
- Import class lists.
- Delete records.
- Track student time.
- Share student scores with other applications.
- Export student work confidentially.
- Set security preferences.

Using Merit Desktop on Multiple Computers

To use Merit on multiple computers, you may either:

- (1) Use stand-alone versions on several stand-alone computers (purchase 5 Packs for best value), or
- (2) Install a networkable version of the software on a server.

Installing the software on a network makes teaching with our programs more convenient.

Networkable versions are client-server applications in which the software goes on a server and shortcuts go on as many student computers as you like. All student data is stored on the server.

The number of stations in your license determines how many concurrent students can access each lesson.

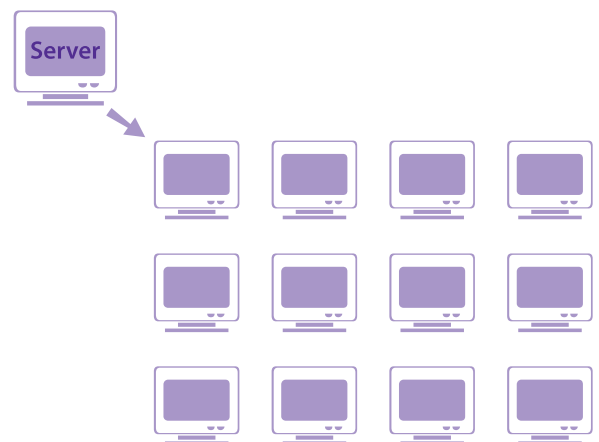
A built-in counter tracks the number of concurrent students using a program.

5 and 10 Station network versions are appropriate for small labs or self-paced classes. When the software is used with self-paced classes, students tend to work on different lessons. In these cases a 5- or 10-station version covers the number of students using the same lesson at the same moment in time.

Site license network versions are appropriate for larger labs and classes of students using one lesson at the same time.

Key Networkable Software Points:

- Prices are a one-time fee and per location.
- The number of stations may be upgraded at a later date after the initial purchase.
- For more information, please contact us.



Ordering Information



Do You Have a Question? Contact Us!

If you are wondering which of our products might best suit your needs, feel free to ask us how we can help you. Because we know that you have your own curriculum objectives and budget, we make ourselves personally available to answer your questions before you make a final decision to use our software with your students.



Placing an Order

You may mail, fax or call in your authorized school or institutional purchase order. Please indicate clearly your preferences for program configuration (e.g., 5 Stations). In addition, we accept all major credit cards.



30-Day Satisfaction Guarantee

If you are not satisfied with your purchase, you may return your order to us within 30 days. We will either issue a credit or cancel your invoice. If you decide to return a program, you will need to arrange for and cover the cost of shipping it back to us. Please select a shipping method that provides a receipt (i.e., UPS, Roadway, or FedEx).



Free Technical Support

All our customers receive free, unlimited telephone and e-mail technical support. Bug fixes and minor updates are free.



Merit Text Talker™

The Merit Text Talker is sold for \$19 per computer. It provides text-to-speech functionality to all Merit Reading, Vocabulary and Grammar programs. See page 49 for details.

Please note that the Merit Text Talker works only with Merit programs. It does not speak-aloud common documents such as Word or PDF files.

Ordering Information (continued from previous page)

System Requirements

All Merit Software desktop programs are PC-based, 32-bit applications and install under Novell NetWare, Citrix MetaFrame, Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows 2003 and Windows XP. * All Merit Software online programs are 100% web-based and require access to the Internet via a Windows, Macintosh or Linux computer. Supported browsers are Internet Explorer 6.0+, Safari 3.0+, and Firefox 2.0+.

To use Merit Software, you will need:

- CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive
- Internet Explorer 4, or higher, is needed to install the software, but not to run it.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (included) is required to view and print manuals.
- 500 MB usable hard disk space**
- VGA or higher resolution monitor, minimum 800 x 600 screen display

* *The Merit Text Talker runs under Windows 98, Windows Me, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows 2003, and Windows XP and uses the Microsoft Speech Application Interface Version 5 (SAPI 5), which is pre-installed on Windows XP. SAPI 5 may be freely downloaded and installed from Microsoft's web site.*

** *Usage on most programs is between 32 and 75 MB. Merit programs use many shared components. On average, each additional program installed will take no more than 5 MB of hard disk space. A few graphic intensive programs will use an additional 55 MB. The Merit Text Talker requires 450 MB of hard disk space and 20 additional MB of RAM.*

Desktop Program Versions

HOME VERSION: License allows use on one computer. Contains record keeping for 2 students.

1 STATION: STAND-ALONE: License allows use on one computer. Contains record keeping for 42 students.

5 PACK: 1 STATION: STAND-ALONE: License allows use on up to five individual computers.

5 STATIONS: NETWORKABLE: License allows use on one network with 5 concurrent users. Contains record keeping for 1,000 students.

10 STATIONS: NETWORKABLE: License allows use on one network with 10 concurrent users. Contains record keeping for 1,000 students.

SITE LICENSE: For use on a network with more than 10 concurrent users.

See page 53 for more information on using Merit on multiple computers.

FREE Try Before You Buy

We offer teachers free evaluation versions of all our software.

The evaluation software contains a wide variety of actual exercises from the complete programs.

The evaluation software is available by download from our web site. Or teachers may request our free CD, which contains evaluation copies of all Merit Software programs.

You do not need to return it to us.

There is no obligation on your part.

Shipping and Handling

United States: Allow 3 -7 days for delivery after receipt of order. Minimum \$10. Add 5% to orders. Shipping and handling includes setup assistance. For faster delivery, call us. International: Contact us for country-specific details.

MERIT SOFTWARE
121 West 27th Street, Suite 603
New York, NY 10001

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Permit No. 975

Paragraph and Essay Punch® Online!

100% web-based editions provide the complete programs over the Internet.

See page 10 for details.

Introducing Book Punch®

New Response to Literature Teaching Tools.

Takes students through the steps of thinking and writing about books commonly taught in schools today. Titles covered include:

Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon
Because of Winn-Dixie
Frindle
From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Sarah, Plain and Tall
... and many more

See page 16 for details.

Merit Consistently Delivers Results!

New research confirms that Merit improves test scores and student achievement.

See page 8 for details.

“My students have achieved wonderful results with Paragraph Punch.”

~ Marie D. Durand Elementary School
Vineland, NJ

HIGHEST RATING!

“The Punch programs have multiple prompts to help students and keep them on track. The instructor site is easy to use with easily accessible links to check pupil progress.”

~ Utah Instructional
Materials Commission

