

Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	1
Chapter 1 Learning tasks and the language curriculum	
1.1 Introduction	5
1.2 'Task' defined and described	5
1.3 Communicative language teaching	12
1.4 Curriculum development and learning tasks	14
1.5 The role of the learner	19
1.6 Conclusion	20
References and further reading	21
Chapter 2 Analysing language skills	
2.1 Introduction	22
2.2 The nature of listening comprehension	23
2.3 The nature of speaking and oral interaction	26
2.4 The nature of reading comprehension	32
2.5 The nature of writing	35
2.6 Implications for task design	37
2.7 Task rationale	40
2.8 Conclusion	45
References and further reading	45
Chapter 3 Task components	
3.1 Introduction: identifying task components	47
3.2 Goals	48
3.3 Input	53
3.4 Activities	59
3.5 Conclusion	77
References and further reading	77
Chapter 4 Roles and settings in the language class	
4.1 Introduction	79
4.2 Learner roles	79
4.3 Teacher roles	84
4.4 Roles in the communicative classroom	86

Contents

4.5	Roles and teaching materials	90
4.6	Settings	91
4.7	Conclusion	94
	References and further reading	94
Chapter 5	Grading tasks	
5.1	Introduction	96
5.2	Input factors	97
5.3	Learner factors	101
5.4	Activity factors	104
5.5	Conclusion	116
	References and further reading	116
Chapter 6	Sequencing and integrating tasks	
6.1	Introduction	118
6.2	A psycholinguistic processing approach	118
6.3	Task continuity	119
6.4	Information gap tasks	122
6.5	Content-based units	125
6.6	Interactive problem solving	128
6.7	The integrated language lesson	130
6.8	Conclusion	131
	References and further reading	132
Chapter 7	Tasks and teacher development	
7.1	Introduction: the self-directed teacher	133
7.2	Evaluating tasks	135
7.3	Creating tasks	137
7.4	An in-service workshop	138
7.5	Conclusion	143
	Postscript	143
	References and further reading	146
Appendix A	A selection of tasks and units of work	147
Appendix B	Approaches and methods – an overview	194
Appendix C	Graded activities for the four macroskills	196
	Cumulative bibliography	203
Index		208