

# Contents

1	BABY-TALK	1
2	FROM CRIES TO WORDS	6
3	LEARNING HOW TO UNDERSTAND	14
4	MAKING VIBRATIONS	21
5	PRONOUNCING SOUNDS	28
6	DISCOVERING GRAMMAR	34
7	HAVING A CONVERSATION	40
8	LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE	45
9	GETTING TO GRIPS WITH SPELLING	52
10	SPELLING RULES AND VARIATIONS	58
11	GRAMMAR RULES AND VARIATIONS	65
12	ACCENTS AND DIALECTS	71
13	BEING BILINGUAL	78
14	THE LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD	84

15	THE ORIGINS OF SPEECH	92
16	THE ORIGINS OF WRITING	98
17	MODERN WRITING	104
18	SIGN LANGUAGE	112
19	COMPARING LANGUAGES	118
20	DYING LANGUAGES	125
21	LANGUAGE CHANGE	131
22	LANGUAGE VARIATION	138
23	LANGUAGE AT WORK	145
24	SLANG	151
25	DICTIONARIES	157
26	ETYMOLOGY	163
27	PLACE NAMES	169
28	PERSONAL NAMES	176
29	THE ELECTRONIC REVOLUTION	183
30	TEXTING	189
31	LANGUAGE AT PLAY	195
32	WHY USE LANGUAGE?	201
33	LANGUAGE FOR FEELINGS	209
34	POLITICAL CORRECTNESS	215
35	LANGUAGE IN LITERATURE	221
36	DEVELOPING A STYLE	227

37	THE COMPLEXITY OF LANGUAGE	233
38	LINGUISTICS	239
39	APPLIED LINGUISTICS	244
40	YOUR LANGUAGE WORLD	250
	INDEX	255

