

# Introduction

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He's back! Brennan Bear returns with more fun-filled language and listening lessons for your classroom. *Listening for Language All Year 'Round* will help you teach word relationships in a fun, easy-to-understand format. In these lessons, your second- through fifth- grade students will use good listening skills as well as expressive and written language skills. The semantic skills presented in this book include classification, association, comparisons, antonyms, synonyms, multiple meanings, semantic absurdities, analogies, and idioms.

We've provided lessons that reinforce learning of word relationships and at the same time provide a resource for you to develop your own creative activities. Each month's lesson includes a:

**cover page:** There are several ways to present the cover page. You can hang it in your room as a reminder of the month's word relationship skill. You might glue it on a large clasp envelope and store the lessons inside. (This is great if you're visiting classrooms!) You can also enlarge it and use as a bulletin board display in your classroom. Whichever way you choose, be sure to discuss the word on the cover page as well as the class goal.

**story:** Remind your students to be good listeners while you read the story, because you'll be asking them questions about it. Encourage class participation to make this a fun activity for everyone!

**written activity:** Your students will be writing sentences, paragraphs, letters, and newspaper reports. Focus on your students' vocabulary and content, rather than spelling and grammar.

**expressive activity:** This activity uses pattern pages. You can use the pattern pages as bulletin boards or attach them to large clasp envelopes. You'll copy other patterns and cut them out for use by your students. You may want to have your students cut out and decorate the patterns themselves.

**listening activity:** Remind your students to listen carefully as you read the directions to them. At the beginning of the year, you may want to repeat the directions once or twice. But toward the end of the year, encourage good listening by saying the directions only once.

**notebook:** Cut apart the notebook pages, make enough copies for each student, and pass out each page as you need it. Depending on your students' writing skills, have them either write sentences or tell you sentences using the words given. Again, emphasize content and meaning. Collect the pages when your students have finished them. Then, staple all the pages together to make a complete notebook. You can present a Brennan Bear Certificate to each student at this point and send the notebook home if you'd like!

**home lesson:** The home lessons are designed for you to decide which skill (writing, expressive language, or listening) you want each student to practice at home. Write the parent's or guardian's name in the blank, sign the letter, and send the activity home. Easy for you, easy for the parent or guardian!

**resource list:** Use the list at the end of each unit for examples of the semantic skill you're teaching. You might want to review different examples at the beginning of each of the writing, expressive language, and listening lessons.

You might choose to share the cover pages, notebook pages, and resource lists with other teachers your students see during the day. Perhaps you can teach lessons together, or have one teacher present the stories and another teach the activities, or present different examples from the resources lists in different content areas. Either way, you and your fellow teachers can choose to work as a team to present *Listening for Language All Year 'Round* if you wish.

Although *Listening for Language All Year 'Round* is set up for a nine-month school year, we've included enough "generic" materials and words in the resource lists for you to use the book in a year-round school setting.

*Listening for Language All Year 'Round* will make your lesson preparations easy and enjoyable. And Brennan will make language, listening, and word relationships both fun and meaningful to your students.

Enjoy!

Brenda and Nan