

## Protea Textware



Windows

No Authoring

Title: **Issues in English**

Type: **Topics for practice**

Publisher: **Protea Textware**

Author: **Heather Kaufmann et al**

Machines: **IBM**

Language: **English**

Level: **Beginners to Advanced**

System Requirements

Microsoft Windows version 3.1 or later  
MPC2, SVGA with 256 colours,  
PC 486/66MHz, 8MB RAM minimum. 2x  
CD player, microphone  
Issues in English is networkable.

<b>Single-user:</b>	<b>£85.00</b>
<b>5-user licence:</b>	<b>£185.00</b>
<b>10-user licence:</b>	<b>£330.00</b>
<b>Site licence:</b>	<b>£350.00</b>
<b>Additional CDs (with multiple-user licences):</b>	<b>£15.00</b>

## Protea Textware



Windows

No Authoring

Title: **Measuring up**

Type: **Working with numbers**

Publisher: **Protea Textware**

Authors: **Dave Tout and Beth Marr**

Machines: **Windows**

Language: **English**

Level: **Beginners**

System Requirements

Windows version 3.1 or later MPC2, VGA  
with 256 colours, PC 486/66MHz, 8MB  
RAM minimum. 2x CD player.

<b>Single-user:</b>	<b>£55.00</b>
<b>5-user:</b>	<b>£110.00</b>
<b>10-user:</b>	<b>£195.00</b>
<b>Additional CDs with multiuser licences:</b>	<b>£15.00</b>

**EU & UK add 17.5% VAT**

## Issues in English

This is a rich resource from the same Australian stable as the *Interactive Picture Dictionary*. It is an interactive CD-ROM for teaching and testing English language skills in the areas of listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. It is aimed at adult learners of ESL, EFL and adult basic literacy learners, in four levels for each issue, from Beginners to Advanced. It includes 32 video clips and 50 minutes of video, as well as high quality sound and graphics.

The eight issues, treated in a mature, sober fashion are **Animal Rights, Discrimination, Euthanasia, Gambling, Growing old, Public Transport, Smoking** and the **Environment**.

The speakers range from professional actors (mostly used for the Beginner's level videos speaking in a slow tempo) to non-actors speaking about themselves or about their topic). The video clips are largely talking-head, straight into the camera, but they do help focus attention. Videos can be viewed with or without sub-texts.

One unique approach indicative of the thoughtful and imaginative approach to using the computer is the "What do you think?" question in the *Writing* topic. Here many answers are possible and the program does not attempt to correct them. The student types in a response using the Notepad which can be saved to disk or printed to paper and then shown to a teacher or friend for a comment. The authors hope that the topic will stimulate off-computer discussion or feature in individual research projects. Although very much aimed at Beginners, the program really comes into its own when working with the much neglected Advanced learners.

## Measuring up

Fluency in numbers is a vital but often undervalued aspect of language learning. For this reason we have added to our list this attractive and varied program from Australia. It is aimed primarily at adult native learners but it is equally valuable for learners of English. It is designed for self-access and is based around real-life integrated activities, it is self-paced with instant verbal feedback.

Other programs deal with numbers in a rudimentary way, but *Measuring up* goes into much greater detail – forty-three skill areas – on understanding fractions, decimals, rounding off decimals, adding and subtracting decimals, multiplying and dividing decimals, reading metric scales. The real-life applications include shopping, cooking, sport, parcel weights

and materials. It could well be that the language learners are at the same time also preparing to pass a maths exam in English, and this program prepares for the Australian National Mathematics Curriculum Profile Levels 3 & 4.

