

How a unit works

All units in *In Focus* are eight pages long and follow a similar format. An audio icon reminds students they have the option of listening to the reading texts (available free from the website).

Unit organization

	Objective	Section
Page 1	Warm up Schema building Real world connections	1 Critical cartoons Warm up Media link
Pages 2–3	Vocabulary development Reading Speaking	2 Core vocabulary Skimming and scanning Words in context: identifying a part of speech; word friends Word parts Discussion dictation
Pages 4–5	Reading Reading skills Speaking	3 Reading skills Pre-reading Reading Identifying topic and main idea Identifying unnecessary information; Logical reasoning; Finding supporting ideas Identifying opinions; Making inferences Discuss it
Page 6	Gathering, comparing, and analyzing information Speaking	4 Find out more Information gathering Comparing results
Pages 7–8	Critical thinking skills Writing Discussion	5 Critical thinking What does the author mean? Categorizing; Finding reasons and ranking them; Ranking Post your opinion Discussion Quotable Quotes

Unit sections

1 Critical cartoons

This is a short speaking activity centered on a cartoon related to the topic of the unit. All cartoons are authentic cartoons, and each was carefully chosen to represent the unit topic. Questions help activate schema and develop critical thinking skills.

2 Core vocabulary

Each unit teaches 10 important words from the New General Service List (NGSL). The section begins with a short reading passage (approximately 200 words) on an aspect of the unit topic that contextualizes the 10 keywords. A series of learning activities focuses on developing knowledge of collocations and analyzing and understanding word parts. This gives students practice using the words introduced in the unit. It also develops vocabulary learning skills and strategies that will be useful when encountering new words not introduced in the unit. A speaking activity rounds off this section.

3 Reading skills

Students work with a longer text (approximately 400 words) that gives a different or expanded point of view on the topic of the unit. This exposure to multiple points of view is a key aspect of developing skills in critical thinking. All 10 keywords appear in the second reading as well, providing additional in-context information about how the words are used. This is followed by a series of carefully structured activities including pre-reading, identifying the topic and main idea, finding supporting details, and logical reasoning. The section ends with a short discussion.

4 Find out more

Since information from various points of view is crucial to thinking critically about an issue, the pair or group activities in this section encourage students to gather further information related to the topic. This is followed by comparison and discussion of the information collected.

5 Critical thinking

Through pair, group, and open class work, students are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills, such as making inferences and ranking and categorizing data. Students then complete a writing task to express their opinion on the topic. The final page brings the content of the unit together in a discussion about the topic. Useful language prompts help students in each unit.

6 Quotable quotes

This final section introduces a quote by a famous person on the topic of the unit. Several thought-provoking questions on the quote conclude the unit. This section can be done in class as a short discussion activity or as a writing assignment outside the class.