This workbook is designed to help students develop vocabulary strategies and broaden their general vocabulary knowledge. This is a content-based text, and all the examples, readings, and exercises are based on the topic of tornadoes. Each unit features activities that preview the target vocabulary and teach word families and practice word forms. Each unit focuses on a different vocabulary development strategy and then offers practice in that strategy. Strategies featured in this workbook are: prefixes, suffixes, synonyms, antonyms, understanding words with multiple meanings, collocations, phrasal verbs, recognizing definitions in text, and word stems. The activities recycle the vocabulary in the reading passages.

The vocabulary word form charts are designed to expose students to more words and to help students see the associations between forms of the same word. Note that all possible forms are not included in the chart—only the more frequent forms and those likely to be of the greatest use for students.

Good reading and vocabulary skills are the best predictor of academic success, according to the research. Because all readers—no matter what they read—will encounter words they do not know or text that they do not understand, students need to have a variety of strategies at their disposal. This book gives students practice in these basic and important vocabulary development strategies.

Pages 71–74 are set aside as a vocabulary notebook for students, to offer structure to the learning of vocabulary and in accordance with research that shows that students need five to seven retrievals to learn a word (Folse 2004). A vocabulary notebook aids by facilitating retrievals, especially when it is in the same book as the new vocabulary. (See Vocabulary Myths: Applying Second Language Research to Classroom Teaching, Keith S. Folse, the University of Michigan Press, 2004.)