Strategy

Understanding system interfaces

Part 1  User interfaces

What to do
1. Think back to when you used one of the following products, paying special attention to the user interface:
   ◆ washing machine;
   ◆ public telephone;
   ◆ DVD recorder/player;
   ◆ camera.

Your teacher may provide you with an alternative product.

What to write
◆ Quickly draw a clearly labelled sketch that describes the user interface.
◆ Explain clearly what each part does.
◆ Explain what input information the interface requires.
◆ Explain what output information the interface gives.
◆ Suggest ways in which the user interface could be improved.

Part 2 – Operator interfaces

What to do
1. Examine the user interface on a bicycle.

What to write
◆ Draw a clearly labelled sketch that describes the user interface.
◆ Explain clearly what each part does.
◆ List all the parts of the operator interface of the car shown on page 41 of the Student’s Book.
◆ Explain why the operator interface of a car is more complex than the user interface of a bicycle.

Homework suggestion
◆ Look at the user interface of a vending machine for drinks or sweets.
◆ Try it out and write a short report on how it might be improved.