



Stages of Language Proficiency

Stage 1: Beginner in English (Using English for Survival Purpose)

- May be very quiet in class for the first few months
- Is becoming familiar with the sounds, rhythms, and patterns of English
- Tries to make sense out of messages and begins to understand simple directions
- Shows some limited comprehension of 'chunks' of language
- Uses pictures and other visual aids to help with understanding English
- Often responds non-verbally or with single words or short phrases
- Begins to read and write single words and short phrases

Stage 2: High Beginner in English (Using English in Supported and Familiar Activities and Contexts)

- Listens with greater understanding
- Begins to respond correctly to direct questions and instructions
- Begins to speak in simple sentences
- Demonstrates growing confidence
- Uses everyday expressions independently and uses personally relevant language appropriately
- Reads and understands a variety of simple stories with familiar vocabulary
- Begins to write simple sentences with extra help from the teacher
- Participates in classroom activities with extra help from the teacher but is not yet ready to fully participate in all subject areas

Stage 3: Intermediate in English (Using English independently in Most Contexts)

- Demonstrates increasing understanding
- Speaks with less hesitation
- Starts and maintains fluent conversation
- Produces longer phrases and sentences
- Is able to use newly acquired vocabulary to retell, describe, explain, and compare
- Reads independently and uses writing for a variety of purposes
- Attempts to write longer, more complex stories but may make spelling and grammatical errors
- Continues to develop academic vocabulary
- Participates more fully in activities related to academic content area but may still need extra help from the teacher to complete written academic tasks

Stage 4: Advanced in English (English Proficiency Approaching that of First-Language speakers)

- Takes all subjects in the grade level classroom
- Understands spoken English in social and academic situations
- Uses more extensive vocabulary with greater accuracy and correctness
- Uses reading and writing skills to explore concepts in greater depth
- Continues to develop proficiency in academic language
- Writes using correct spelling and grammar most of the time