

Stages of Language Acquisition

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Preproduction	Early Production	Speech Emergence	Intermediate Fluency	Advanced Fluency
Entering	Emerging	Developing	Expanding	Bridging
Minimal comprehension	Limited comprehension	Good comprehension	Excellent comprehension	Near native level of comprehension and speech
Silent period, reluctant to speak	One or two word responses, short phrases, short sentences	Simple sentences	More complex sentences	Complex sentences
Nods "Yes" and "No" Uses high-frequency words and memorized chunks of language	Uses high-frequency words and some general academic vocabulary	Uses general and some specific academic vocabulary	Uses specific and some technical academic vocabulary	Uses specific and technical vocabulary
Names objects, people, and pictures	Recalls some basic/general information	Recalls information and some important details	Recalls information and important details. Identifies sequence of steps and determines main idea	Recalls intricate details. Determines key information to summarize a task
Examples of Teacher Prompts				
Circle... Label and caption <i>using word bank</i> ... Name <i>using word bank</i> ... Show...	Describe <i>using word bank and sentence frames</i> ... Organize... Recall... Write in bullets...	Compare and Contrast <i>using graphic organizers and sentence frames</i> ... Discuss <i>using sentence frames</i> ... Question... Summarize ...	Distinguish between... Evaluate... Identify details... Report...	Analyze... Critic... Explain... Hypothesize... Interpret... Justify...

(Adapted from: Krashen & Terrell, 1983 and WIDA, 2012)