

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT STAGES

Language Development Stage	Sample Student Characteristics	Academic Supports	Social Supports	Educator Tips
Beginning (Newcomers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet and attentive • May appear bashful • Able to respond with physical gestures 	Teach basic vocabulary, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greetings • Classroom procedures • Basic vocabulary (e.g., numbers, colors, shapes, and commonly used words) 	Use a buddy system. If possible, pair up student with a peer who speaks the same language or someone with strong social skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a personal connection with the English learners. • Be extremely patient and encouraging. • Speak clearly, not loudly.
Early Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to use short phrases and sentences • Significant difficulty with English grammar and pronunciation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of visual aids. • Engage in ample reading of simple books. • Ask simple questions that require short responses, such as those involving “Who” and “Where.” 	Use cross-age tutors/mentors. Consider pairing up students with older buddies who can help with academic tasks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain idiomatic expressions and slang. • Recognize and capitalize on the English learners’ individual assets, such as academic strengths, creative/musical talents, athletic abilities, etc.
Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to use complete sentences • Some continued difficulty with English grammar and pronunciation • Appear “English fluent” with peers, but lack academic vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in ample reading and writing of high-interest text. • Provide ample time for discussion. • Ask open-ended questions involving “Why” and “How.” 	Pair up with native English speakers in class. Interacting and observing their peers is especially helpful to English learners as they are acquiring academic language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use multicultural books to help English learners see themselves reflected in the literature, and to help other students build cultural awareness. • Allow English learners to showcase their cultures by sharing games, music, sports, or other items of interest with their peers.
Early Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to ask and process more complex questions • Able to transfer skills from one language to another with ease • Rapidly gaining academic English language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use graphic organizers to help students comprehend nonfiction reading. • Use readalouds to increase comprehension and academic vocabulary. 	Engage in cooperative group activities. Participating in interactive group work helps English learners make strides in mastering academic concepts and language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set and maintain high expectations for English learners.
Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to properly use academic English • Able to perform most tasks on grade level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide challenging learning experiences. • Continue providing academic support. 	Assign leadership roles (e.g., group spokesperson, teacher assistant, etc.) Role modeling builds self-confidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expose English learners to upcoming concepts and vocabulary.