

ACCESS for ELLs Proficiency Level Descriptors – Grades 1-12

LISTENING

Level	Students at this level generally can
6	understand oral language in English and participate in all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesize information from multiple speakers • Recognize language that conveys information with precision and accuracy • Create models or visuals to represent detailed information presented orally • Identify strengths and limitations of different points of view
5	understand oral language in English and participate in all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand on others' ideas • Distinguish events, people, or situations from oral descriptions • Recall key information and details about processes or concepts discussed orally • Identify examples and reasons that support an opinion or viewpoint
4	understand oral language in English related to specific topics in school and can participate in class discussions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange information and ideas with others • Connect people and events based on oral information • Apply key information about processes or concepts presented orally • Identify positions or points of view on issues in oral discussions
3	understand oral language related to specific common topics in school and can participate in class discussions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect spoken ideas to own experiences • Find, select, and order information from oral descriptions • Identify the causes and effects of events or situations discussed orally • Classify pros and cons of issues in discussions
2	understand oral language related to specific familiar topics in school and can participate in class discussions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify main topics in discussions • Categorize or sequence information presented orally using pictures or objects • Follow short oral directions with the help of pictures • Sort facts and opinions stated orally
1	understand oral messages that include visuals and gestures and may contain a few everyday words or phrases in English, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize familiar words and phrases in conversations • Match information from oral descriptions to objects, figures, or illustrations • Follow one-step oral directions • Show agreement or disagreement with oral statements

SPEAKING

Level	Students at this level generally can
6	use English to communicate orally and participate in all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • React and respond to multiple points of view • Organize and present research-based information • Clarify how or why something happens • Persuade others based on opinions, examples, and reasons
5	use English to communicate orally and participate in all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the causes and impact of events • Summarize and relate information • Present and justify ideas showing how or why • Express and defend opinions backed by examples and reasons
4	communicate orally in English using language related to specific topics in school and can participate in class discussions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare stories, issues, and concepts • Paraphrase and summarize information • State ideas to show how or why with examples • Give opinions supported by detailed reasons
3	communicate ideas and details orally in English using several connected sentences and can participate in short conversations and discussions in school, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate stories or events • Share ideas and provide details • Describe processes or procedures • Give opinions with reasons
2	communicate ideas and information orally in English using language that contains short sentences and everyday words and phrases, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share about what, when, or where something happened • Compare objects, people, pictures, and events • Describe steps in cycles or processes • Express opinions
1	communicate orally in English using gestures and language that may contain a few words, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer simple questions about what, when, or where something happened • Name familiar objects, people, and pictures • Show how to solve problems using words and gestures • Express personal preferences

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READING	
Level	Students at this level generally can
6	understand written language in English from all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate written information from various sources of information • Conduct research and synthesize information from multiple sources • Distinguish various processes based on details in written texts • Recognize different ideas, claims, and evidence about a variety of issues
5	understand written language in English from all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize information on a variety of topics and for a variety of purposes • Compare ideas and information across various texts • Identify causes, effects, and consequences of events from written information • Recognize claims and supporting evidence around specific issues or concepts
4	understand written language related to specific topics in school, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish viewpoints and justifications described in editorials and other written texts • Identify main ideas and details in informational and fictional texts • Recognize biases and diverse perspectives in written text • Connect claims, evidence, and examples in a variety of written sources
3	understand written language related to common topics in school and can participate in class discussions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify main ideas and examples in written information • Identify main information that tells who, what, when, or where something happened • Identify steps in written processes and procedures • Recognize language related to claims and supporting evidence
2	understand written language related to specific familiar topics in school and can participate in class discussions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify main ideas in written information • Identify main actors and events in stories and simple texts with pictures or graphs • Sequence pictures, events, or steps in processes • Distinguish between claim and evidence statements
1	understand written texts that include visuals and may contain a few words or phrases in English, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret information from graphs, charts, and other visual information • Comprehend short text with illustrations and simple and familiar language • Identify steps in processes presented in graphs or short texts with illustrations • Identify words and phrases that express opinions and claims

WRITING	
Level	Students at this level generally can
6	communicate in writing in English using language from all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce clearly organized commentaries and editorials on various issues • Elaborate narratives with rich, descriptive language and complex organization • Create formal written reports on a variety of issues, ideas, and information • Produce well-organized persuasive essays using complex and technical language
5	communicate in writing using language from all academic classes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create detailed opinion pieces about a variety of topics • Write summaries of various types of texts • Describe causes, effects, and consequences of processes and events • Express and defend positions supported by examples and reasons
4	communicate in writing in English using language related to specific topics in school, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce papers describing specific ideas or concepts • Narrate stories with details of people, events, and situations • Create explanatory text that includes details or examples • Provide opinions supported by reasons with details
3	communicate in writing in English using language related to common topics in school, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe familiar issues and events • Create stories or short narratives • Describe processes and procedures with some details • Give opinions with reasons in a few short sentences
2	communicate in writing in English using language related to familiar topics in school, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe ideas or concepts using phrases or short sentences • Label illustrations describing what, when, or where something happened • State steps in processes or procedures • Express opinions about specific topics or situations
1	communicate in writing using visuals and symbols that may contain few words in English, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express ideas or concepts using text and illustrations • Share personal experiences through drawings and words • Label steps in processes presented in graphs or short texts • State opinions or preferences through text and illustrations

Proficiency level descriptions taken from *ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports Grades K-12, Spring 2020*.

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