

WIDA Performance Definitions - Listening and Reading Grades K–12

Within sociocultural contexts for processing language...

	Discourse Dimension	Sentence Dimension	Word/Phrase Dimension
	Linguistic Complexity	Language Forms and Conventions	Vocabulary Usage
<p>Level 6 - Reaching</p> <p>English language learners will process a range of grade-appropriate oral or written language for a variety of academic purposes and audiences. Automaticity in language processing is reflected in the ability to identify and act on significant information from a variety of genres and registers. English language learners' strategic competence in processing academic language facilitates their access to content area concepts and ideas.</p>			
<p>At each grade, toward the end of a given level of English language proficiency, and with instructional support, English language learners will process...</p>			
Level 5 Bridging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich descriptive discourse with complex sentences • Cohesive and organized, related ideas across content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of complex grammatical structures • Sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical and abstract content-area language • Words and expressions with shades of meaning across content areas
Level 4 Expanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected discourse with a variety of sentences • Expanded related ideas characteristic of particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex grammatical structures • A broad range of sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific and some technical content-area language • Words or expressions with multiple meanings across content areas
Level 3 Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourse with a series of extended sentences • Related ideas specific to particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compound and some complex grammatical constructions • Sentence patterns across content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific content-area language and expressions • Words and expressions with common collocations and idioms across content areas
Level 2 Emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple related simple sentences • An idea with details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compound grammatical structures • Repetitive phrasal and sentence patterns across content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General content words and expressions, including cognates • Social and instructional words and expressions across content areas
Level 1 Entering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single statements or questions • An idea within words, phrases, or chunks of language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple grammatical constructions (e.g., commands, Wh- questions, declaratives) • Common social and instructional forms and patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General content-related words • Everyday social, instructional and some content-related words and phrases

WIDA Performance Definitions - Speaking and Writing Grades K–12

Within sociocultural contexts for language use...

	Discourse Dimension	Sentence Dimension	Word/Phrase Dimension
	Linguistic Complexity	Language Forms and Conventions	Vocabulary Usage
Level 6 - Reaching			
English language learners will use a range of grade-appropriate language for a variety of academic purposes and audiences. Agility in academic language use is reflected in oral fluency and automaticity in response, flexibility in adjusting to different registers and skillfulness in interpersonal interaction. English language learners' strategic competence in academic language use facilitates their ability to relate information and ideas with precision and sophistication for each content area.			
At each grade, toward the end of a given level of English language proficiency, and with instructional support, English language learners will produce...			
Level 5 Bridging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple, complex sentences Organized, cohesive, and coherent expression of ideas characteristic of particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variety of complex grammatical structures matched to purpose A broad range of sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical and abstract content-area language, including content-specific collocations Words and expressions with precise meaning across content areas
Level 4 Expanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short, expanded, and some complex sentences Organized expression of ideas with emerging cohesion characteristic of particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compound and complex grammatical structures Sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific and some technical content-area language Words and expressions with expressive meaning through use of collocations and idioms across content areas
Level 3 Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short and some expanded sentences with emerging complexity Expanded expression of one idea or emerging expression of multiple related ideas across content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple and compound grammatical structures with occasional variation Sentence patterns across content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific content language, including cognates and expressions Words or expressions with multiple meanings used across content areas
Level 2 Emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phrases or short sentences Emerging expression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulaic grammatical structures Repetitive phrasal and sentence patterns across content areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General content words and expressions Social and instructional words and expressions across content areas
Level 1 Entering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words, phrases, or chunks of language Single words used to represent ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phrase-level grammatical structures Phrasal patterns associated with familiar social and instructional situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General content-related words Everyday social and instructional words and expressions



Performance Definitions for the Levels of English Language Proficiency in Grades K-12

At the given level of English language proficiency, English language learners will process, understand, produce, or use:

6 Reaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specialized or technical language reflective of the content areas at grade level • a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse as required by the specified grade level • oral or written communication in English comparable to English-proficient peers
5 Bridging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specialized or technical language of the content areas • a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse, including stories, essays, or reports • oral or written language approaching comparability to that of English-proficient peers when presented with grade-level material
4 Expanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific and some technical language of the content areas • a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in oral discourse or multiple, related sentences, or paragraphs • oral or written language with minimal phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that do not impede the overall meaning of the communication when presented with oral or written connected discourse with sensory, graphic, or interactive support
3 Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general and some specific language of the content areas • expanded sentences in oral interaction or written paragraphs • oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that may impede the communication, but retain much of its meaning, when presented with oral or written, narrative, or expository descriptions with sensory, graphic, or interactive support
2 Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general language related to the content areas • phrases or short sentences • oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that often impede the meaning of the communication when presented with one- to multiple-step commands, directions, questions, or a series of statements with sensory, graphic, or interactive support
1 Entering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas • words, phrases, or chunks of language when presented with one-step commands, directions, WH-, choice, or yes/no questions, or statements with sensory, graphic, or interactive support • oral language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that often impede meaning when presented with basic oral commands, direct questions, or simple statements with sensory, graphic, or interactive support