## ESL Benchmarks Summary

	Level 1 Beginning	Level 2 Developing	Level 3 Expanding	Level 4 Bridging	Level 5 Extending
Listening	Needs visuals and gestures to understand basic conversations and new topics. Understands: • basic words • simple sentences • familiar social expressions • simple questions.	Needs visuals, gestures and demonstrations to learn new words or concepts. Understands: • basic words for labelling and describing • sentences with some detail • familiar social conversations • questions starting with "What," "Where," "When," "Who," and "How many."	Uses visuals and demonstrations to assist with understanding the main idea when working with unfamiliar topics. Understands: • more descriptive words • some academic words • longer detailed sentences • more challenging questions on familiar topics • most social conversations • cooperative learning experiences.	Uses visuals as needed to understand some details when working with unfamiliar topics. Understands: • more academic words • complex sentences • the regular flow of conversations • open-ended questions, such as: "Can you tell me more about?" "Why do you think?" "How is this an example of?" • the difference between formal and informal speech.	Uses visuals as needed to understand detailed explanations when working with unfamiliar topics. Understands: • a range of academic words • a variety of sentence structures • common idioms and cultural references • hypothetical questions on academic topics, such as: "What if?" and "If?"
Speaking	Uses: • one or two words and gestures • memorized phrases • familiar greetings and expressions to interact.	Uses: • familiar words to name and describe objects and actions • simple sentences • common social expressions to interact.	Uses: • subject-specific words • positive and negative sentences • strategies such as providing examples and using circumlocution • common idioms to communicate.	<ul> <li>Uses:</li> <li>a range of descriptive and subject-specific words</li> <li>detail to add to sentences</li> <li>strategies, such as commenting and connecting, to engage in conversations.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Uses:</li> <li>a broad range of words including academic words</li> <li>a variety of sentence structures</li> <li>a variety of talk techniques, such as paraphrasing, to sustain conversations.</li> </ul>

## ESL Benchmarks Summary

Grades 1–3

	Level 1 Beginning	Level 2 Developing	Level 3 Expanding	Level 4 Bridging	Level 5 Extending
Reading	Recognizes some sight words. Names the letters of the alphabet. Understands words in patterned sentences by matching words to pictures. Reads letter by letter.	Recognizes most sight words and beginning sounds of words. Uses pictures and diagrams to understand new words. Understands text literally. Reads word by word.	Uses ending sounds, consonant blends (such as th, nt, cr) and word families to read new words. Uses patterned sentences and shared experiences to predict meaning. Understands texts can have literal or figurative meaning. Reads with some phrasing and rereads for improved fluency.	Uses awareness of vowels and a range of word families to read new words. Uses visuals and contextual clues to comprehend texts. Understands the figurative meaning of some similes. Reads with some expression, substitution and self-correcting for improved fluency.	Uses awareness of the sounds of a variety of consonant and vowel combinations to read two and three syllable words. Uses a variety of strategies, including predicting and word analysis, to comprehend texts. Understands simple metaphors, idioms and humour in text. Reads with expression.
Writing	Copies letters and words, and draws pictures. Connects two or more familiar words in phrases. Completes patterned sentences and uses sentence frames, with support. Edits with direct support.	Attempts to spell familiar words in simple sentences. Writes with omissions and tense errors. Copies group-generated text and uses sentence frames with increasing understanding. Edits for spelling of familiar sight words and for capitals and periods, with some support.	<ul> <li>Writes detailed sentences using descriptive and subject-specific words.</li> <li>Writes with some word usage errors.</li> <li>Creates texts following a model and completes graphic organizers, with support.</li> <li>Edits for spelling of sight words and for use of punctuation, such as commas, question marks and exclamation marks.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Writes simple paragraphs, using synonyms and words with multiple meanings.</li> <li>Demonstrates some control over word order.</li> <li>Creates texts on specific topics from models.</li> <li>Edits for regular spelling, tense and common punctuation.</li> </ul>	Writes detailed paragraphs, using a range of vocabulary. Demonstrates more control over word order. Creates texts, showing a sense of audience, purpose and style. Edits for regular and irregular spelling, a variety of tenses and regular punctuation.