ESL Benchmarks Summary

	Level 1 Beginning	Level 2 Developing	Level 3 Expanding	Level 4 Bridging	Level 5 Extending
Listening	Needs visuals, gestures and demonstrations to understand basic facts and literal descriptions of familiar topics. Understands: • some words related to familiar topics • simple sentences • familiar social expressions • simple questions on familiar topics.	Uses visuals and demonstrations to assist in understanding the gist of discussions and presentations on familiar topics. Understands: • descriptive and subject- specific words • simple detailed sentences • social conversations • literal questions beginning with "What," "Where," "When," "Who" and "How many."	Understands the main ideas of discussions and presentations on familiar and unfamiliar topics. Understands: • academic words • complex sentences on familiar topics • idiomatic expressions • open-ended questions, such as: "Why?" and "How?"	Understands main ideas and examples of academic explanations. Understands: • synonyms, antonyms, adjectives and adverbs related to academic vocabulary • complex sentences on unfamiliar topics • slang and humour • hypothetical questions, such as: "What if?" and "If then what?"	Understands main ideas and supporting details of academic texts. Understands: • a broad range of vocabulary • a variety of sentence structures • sarcasm and innuendo • inference questions and the implied meaning of questions.
Speaking	Expresses basic needs. Uses: • familiar words • words learned in class • phrases • simple sentences • familiar greetings and expressions. Speaks with some errors and omissions.	Expresses needs, feelings and preferences and responds to questions. Uses: • more utility, descriptive and subject-specific words • simple detailed sentences • awareness of informal and formal register. Speaks with some overgeneralization errors, such as misuse of -s and -ed.	 Expresses ideas, makes statements and asks and answers questions. Uses: a range of utility, descriptive, subject-specific and academic words varied word order in complex sentences slang and idioms. Speaks with some subject-verb agreement errors and tense errors. 	Communicates by clarifying, commenting, stating opinions and expressing agreement and disagreement. Uses: • a greater range of vocabulary • complex, detailed sentences • social references, expressions and idioms in appropriate contexts. Speaks with some usage errors.	Communicates through discussion, inquiry and persuasion. Uses: • a broad range of vocabulary • a variety of sentence structures • humour and sarcasm in appropriate contexts. Speaks with occasional errors.

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Reading	 Reads: familiar words some utility, descriptive and subject-specific words simple sentences titles, headings and captions text at a literal level word by word or with phrasing. Understands by using: visuals context shared experiences first language first culture. 	 Reads: word families more descriptive, subject-specific and academic words simple detailed sentences short paragraphs a variety of genres with phrasing, rereading and substitution. Understands by: using visuals rereading and looking for known words predicting. 	 Reads: root words and affixes words with multiple meanings varied sentence structures descriptive paragraphs familiar social expressions and figurative language with increasing expression and attends to punctuation. Understands by: reading on using contextual clues using format cues analyzing affixes. 	Reads: • multisyllabic words • new words in context • subordinate, relative and conditional clauses • related paragraphs • explicit social and cultural references • consistently with expression and self-corrects. Understands by: • using inferencing • revising thoughts • concluding.	 Reads: words with unique spelling patterns a broad range of vocabulary a range of sentence structures, phrases and clauses implied meaning of social and cultural references fluently with expression and intonation. Understands by: synthesizing summarizing drawing conclusions using a variety of contextual clues.
Writing	 Writes: words related to familiar topics and experiences simple and compound sentences patterned sentences to complete graphic organizers and sentence frames. Edits for spelling of familiar words, capitals and periods. Writes with usage errors and omissions. 	 Writes: descriptive and subject-specific words detailed simple sentences and sentences with clauses using models and templates. Edits for regular spelling, end punctuation and commas. Writes with agreement errors. 	 Writes: subject-specific and academic words related to curricular concepts a variety of simple, compound and complex sentences basic paragraphs texts for specific purposes. Edits for irregular spelling, tenses and apostrophes. Writes with more control of agreement and tense. 	 Writes: by selecting appropriate words from a greater range of vocabulary connected complex sentences detailed paragraphs expository and narrative texts, using culturally appropriate forms and styles. Revises text for word choice and agreement. Writes with occasional errors. 	 Writes: by acquiring new words from various sources a variety of sentences to express relationships of time and condition academic compositions texts with a developing sense of audience, genre and voice. Revises text for content, organization and voice. Writes with increasing accuracy.