

## Text File of Second-Language Acquisition Stages

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| <p><b>Pre-Production:</b> 0-6 months</p> <p><b>Approximate vocabulary:</b> 500 receptive words, not used expressively</p> | <p>Has minimal comprehension, may not verbalize, nods “yes” and “no,” draws and points. In this “silent period,” student takes in the new language but does not speak it.</p>  |
| <p><b>Early Production:</b> 6-12 months</p> <p><b>Approximate vocabulary:</b> 1,000 words, receptive and expressive</p>   | <p>Has limited comprehension, produces one- or two-word responses, uses keywords and familiar phrases, uses present-tense verbs. Still focused on listening and absorbing the language, making many errors.</p>  |
| <p><b>Speech Emergence:</b> 1-3 years</p> <p><b>Approximate vocabulary:</b> 3,000 words</p>                               | <p>Has good comprehension, produces simple sentences, makes grammar and pronunciation errors, frequently misunderstands jokes. Vocabulary continues to increase and errors begin to decrease, especially in common or repeated interactions.</p>                                     |
| <p><b>Intermediate Fluency:</b> 3-5 years</p> <p><b>Approximate vocabulary:</b> 6,000 words</p>                           | <p>Fluent, especially in social language situations. Has excellent comprehension and makes few grammatical errors. Able to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills in the second language such as offering an opinion or analyzing a problem.</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Advanced Fluency:</b> 5-7 years</p>   | <p>Has a near-native level of speech. Maneuvers successfully in new contexts and when exposed to new academic information. May still have an accent and use idiomatic expressions incorrectly at times, but is essentially fluent and comfortable communicating in all contexts.</p> |

Sources:

1. Stephen D. Krashen and Tracy D. Terrell, *The Natural Approach: Language Acquisition in the Classroom* (Pergamon Press, 1983).
2. “Language Acquisition: An Overview,” Kristina Robertson and Karen Ford, ¡Colorín Colorado!, 2008, <https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/language-acquisition-overview>.
3. “Teaching English Language Learners: Effective Instructional Practices,” IRIS Center™, accessed April 2020, <https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ell/#content>.