Consolidated EL Proficiency Table with Teacher Tools & Sample Activities

This document consolidates WIDA, ACTFL, and CEFR proficiency expectations into one teacher-friendly table, including what English learners can and cannot do at each level across the four language domains, along with teacher tools and sample classroom activities.

Beginner (WIDA 1–2 / ACTFL Novice / CEFR A1–A2)

Listening

- Can Do: Understand words & short, familiar phrases; follow simple directions with visuals/gestures

- Cannot Yet Do: Understand fast/complex speech or abstract ideas

- Teacher Tools: Visuals, gestures, realia; slower speech + repetition; songs/chants, TPR

- Sample Activities: TPR Simon Says; Listen & point to images; Picture-sound match

Speaking

- Can Do: Use single words/short phrases; communicate basic needs with support

- Cannot Yet Do: Hold topic-based discussions or explain thinking

- Teacher Tools: Sentence stems + frames; repetition & choral responses; visual vocabulary cards

- Sample Activities: Show & Tell w/ sentence frames; Choral repetition; 'Find Someone Who...'

Reading

- Can Do: Read words, short sentences, simple texts with visuals

- Cannot Yet Do: Read grade-level texts independently

- Teacher Tools: Leveled texts with visuals; pre-teach vocabulary; picture walks

- Sample Activities: Picture-word match; Patterned books; Sentence strip puzzles

Writing

- Can Do: Write labels, lists, simple sentences with models

- Cannot Yet Do: Write organized paragraphs or use academic language

- Teacher Tools: Sentence frames & word banks; modeled/shared writing; simple graphic organizers

- Sample Activities: Label the classroom; Frame writing ('I like…'); Copy model sentences

Intermediate (WIDA 3–4 / ACTFL Intermediate / CEFR B1–B2)

Listening

- Can Do: Understand main ideas & some details in conversations or short academic content

- Cannot Yet Do: Understand figurative language or rapid idioms

- Teacher Tools: Graphic organizers; chunked audio/video + guiding questions; Think-Pair-Share

- Sample Activities: Jigsaw listening; Guided video with questions; Main idea/details sort

Speaking

- Can Do: Participate in simple discussions on familiar topics; Ask/answer questions

- Cannot Yet Do: Sustain complex academic discussions

- Teacher Tools: Conversation prompt cards; structured discussions; role-plays

- Sample Activities: Role-plays; Think-Pair-Share; 'Would You Rather?' academic version

Reading

- Can Do: Read short paragraphs and grade-level texts with scaffolds

- Cannot Yet Do: Analyze author's craft or infer deep meaning independently

- Teacher Tools: Guided reading supports; annotation bookmarks; text-dependent questions

- Sample Activities: Guided reading + annotations; Cloze reading; Main idea & detail sort

Writing

- Can Do: Write short paragraphs with some organization; use emerging academic vocabulary

- Cannot Yet Do: Write extended academic texts independently

- Teacher Tools: Paragraph frames; transition word banks; peer editing checklists

- Sample Activities: Paragraph writing; Compare/contrast paragraph; Exit tickets

Advanced (WIDA 5–6 / ACTFL Advanced / CEFR C1–C2)

Listening

- Can Do: Understand detailed content, lectures, discussions; infer tone and figurative language

- May Still Struggle With: Dense texts with cultural references or jargon

- Teacher Tools: Socratic seminars; note-taking frames; academic vocabulary organizers

- Sample Activities: Academic podcast + Cornell notes; TED Talk analysis; perspective-taking discussion

Speaking

- Can Do: Clearly express ideas for social/academic purposes; persuade, justify, explain

- May Still Struggle With: Idioms, humor, cultural expressions

- Teacher Tools: Academic discourse stems; debates; peer feedback rubrics

- Sample Activities: Debates; Socratic seminar; mini-presentations with Q&A

Reading

- Can Do: Read & analyze grade-level and complex texts; interpret tone & academic vocabulary

- May Still Struggle With: Technical/discipline-specific texts

- Teacher Tools: Socratic questioning; advanced annotation; cross-text comparisons

- Sample Activities: Author's craft analysis; Compare two texts; Figurative language hunt

Writing

- Can Do: Write well-organized academic essays; edit for clarity and tone

- May Still Struggle With: Discipline-specific writing conventions

- Teacher Tools: Writing rubrics; exemplars; writing conferences

- Sample Activities: Argumentative essay; peer review; discipline-specific writing tasks