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	• Multiple, complex sentences • Organized, cohesive, and coherent expression of ideas characteristic of particular content areas	• A variety of complex grammatical structures matched to purpose • A broad range of sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas	• Technical and abstract content-area language, including content-specific collocations • Words and expressions with precise meaning across content areas
Level 4 Expanding	• Short, expanded, and some complex sentences • Organized expression of ideas with emerging cohesion characteristic of particular content areas	• Compound and complex grammatical structures • Sentence patterns characteristic of particular content areas	• Specific and some technical content-area language • Words and expressions with expressive meaning through use of collocations and idioms across content areas
Level 3	• Short and some expanded sentences with emerging complexity	• Simple and compound grammatical structures with occasional variation	• Specific content language, including cognates and expressions

Developing	• Expanded expression of one idea or emerging expression of multiple related ideas across content areas	• Sentence patterns across content areas	• Words or expressions with multiple meanings used across content areas
Level 2 Emerging	• Phrases or short sentences • Emerging expression of ideas	• Formulaic grammatical structures • Repetitive phrasal and sentence patterns across content areas	• General content words and expressions • Social and instructional words and expressions across content areas
Level 1 Entering	• Words, phrases, or chunks of language • Single words used to represent ideas	• Phrase-level grammatical structures • Phrasal patterns associated with familiar social and instructional situations	• General content-related words • Everyday social and instructional words and expressions