

ACTIVITY I: Exploring contexts for second language learning, learner characteristics and learning conditions

Using the chart below, give your opinion about the presence or absence of learner characteristics and learning conditions for the four different learners: (1) a young child at home; (2) a young child on the playground; (3) an adolescent in the classroom; and (4) an adult on the job. Use the following notation:

+ = usually present

– = usually absent

? = sometimes present, sometimes absent, or you're not sure

	First language (L1)	Second language (L2)		
	Young child (at home)	Young child (playground)	Adolescent (classroom)	Adult (on the job)
Learner characteristics				
Another language				
Cognitive maturity				
Metalinguistic awareness				
World knowledge				
Anxiety about speaking				
Learning conditions				
Freedom to be silent				
Ample time				
Corrective feedback (grammar and pronunciation)				
Corrective feedback (meaning, word choice, politeness)				
Modified input				

Adapted from Lightbown & Spada (2008)