

## ESL Levels: General Descriptions Grades 7-9

### **Level 1 - Beginning**

Listening: Relies on visuals, gestures and demonstrations to understand basic facts and literal descriptions of familiar topics.

Speaking: Expresses basic needs.

Reading: Reads familiar words, subject specific words, simple sentences and reads at a literal level or word by word. May not comprehend text fully.

Writing: Writes with words related to familiar topics/experiences and with simple compound sentences. Writes with usage errors and omissions.

### **Level 2 - Developing**

Listening: Relies on visuals and demonstrations to assist in understanding the content of discussions and presentations on familiar topics.

Speaking: Expresses needs, feelings and preferences and responds to questions.

Reading: Reads word families, and more descriptive subject-specific academic words, simple detailed sentences, short paragraphs and reads a variety of genres. May not comprehend text fluently.

Writing: Writes with descriptive subject specific words and detailed simple sentences. Writes with some agreement errors.

### **Level 3 - Expanding**

Listening: Understands the main ideas of discussions and presentations on familiar and unfamiliar topics.

Speaking: Expresses ideas, makes statements and asks/answers questions.

Reading: Reads root words, affixes, words with multiple meanings, varied sentence structures, descriptive paragraphs and familiar social expressions, and figurative language. Reads with expression, acknowledging punctuation.

Writing: Writes with subject-specific academic words and a variety of simple compound, complex sentences and paragraphs. Writes with more control of agreement and tense.

## **Level 4 - Bridging**

Listening: Understands main ideas and examples of academic explanations

Speaking: Communicates by clarifying, commenting, stating opinions and expressing agreement/disagreement.

Reading: Reads multisyllabic words, new words in context, subordinate, relative and conditional clauses, explicit social and cultural references. Reads consistently with expression and self-corrects.

Writing: Writes with a greater range of vocabulary, connected complex sentences and detailed paragraphs. Writes with occasional errors.

## **Level 5 - Extending**

Listening: Understands main ideas and supporting details of academic texts.

Speaking: Communicates through discussion, inquiry and persuasion.

Reading: Reads words with unique spelling patterns, a broad range of vocabulary, a range of sentence structures and phrases/clauses, understands implied meaning of social and cultural references. Reads fluently with expression and intonation.

Writing: Writes by acquiring new words from various sources and with a variety of sentences to express relationships of time/condition. Writes with increasing accuracy.

*Adapted from:*

<https://www.learnalberta.ca/content/eslapb/documents/ESL%20Benchmarks%20Division%20Levels%20Summary%20Gr%207-9.pdf>