



Can Do Descriptors: Grade Level Cluster 6-8

For the given level of English language proficiency and with visual, graphic, or interactive support through Level 4, English language learners can process or produce the **language** needed to:

	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	Level 6 - Reaching
LISTENING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow one-step oral commands/instructions Match social language to visual/graphic displays Identify objects, people, or places from oral statements/questions using gestures (e.g., pointing) Match instructional language with visual representation (e.g., "Use a sharpened pencil.") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow multi-step oral commands/instructions Classify/sort content-related visuals per oral descriptions Sequence visuals per oral directions Identify information on charts or tables based on oral statements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Categorize content-based examples from oral directions Match main ideas of familiar text read aloud to visuals Use learning strategies described orally Identify everyday examples of content-based concepts described orally Associate oral language with different time frames (e.g., past, present, future) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify main ideas and details of oral discourse Complete content-related tasks or assignments based on oral discourse Apply learning strategies to new situations Role play, dramatize, or re-enact scenarios from oral reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use oral information to accomplish grade-level tasks Evaluate intent of speech and act accordingly Make inferences from grade-level text read aloud Discriminate among multiple genres read orally 	
SPEAKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer yes/no and choice questions Begin to use general and high frequency vocabulary Repeat words, short phrases, memorized chunks Answer select WH-questions (e.g., "who," "what," "when," "where") within context of lessons or personal experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convey content through high frequency words/phrases State big/main ideas of classroom conversation Describe situations from modeled sentences Describe routines and everyday events Express everyday needs and wants Communicate in social situations Make requests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to express time through multiple tenses Retell/rephrase ideas from speech Give brief oral content-based presentations State opinions Connect ideas in discourse using transitions (e.g., "but," "then") Use different registers inside and outside of class State big/main ideas with some supporting details Ask for clarification (e.g., self-monitor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paraphrase and summarize ideas presented orally Defend a point of view Explain outcomes Explain and compare content-based concepts Connect ideas with supporting details/evidence Substantiate opinions with reasons and evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defend a point of view and give reasons Use and explain metaphors and similes Communicate with fluency in social and academic contexts Negotiate meaning in group discussions Discuss and give examples of abstract, content-based ideas (e.g., democracy, justice) 	

The Can Do Descriptors work in conjunction with the WIDA Performance Definitions of the English language proficiency standards. The Performance Definitions use three criteria (1. linguistic complexity; 2. vocabulary usage; and 3. language control) to describe the increasing quality and quantity of students' language processing and use across the levels of language proficiency.

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	Level 1 Entering	Level 2 Beginning	Level 3 Developing	Level 4 Expanding	Level 5 Bridging	Level 6 - Reaching
READING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate letters with sounds and objects Match content-related objects/pictures to words Identify common symbols, signs, and words Recognize concepts of print Find single word responses to WH- questions (e.g., “who,” “what,” “when,” “where”) related to illustrated text Use picture dictionaries/illustrated glossaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sequence illustrated text of fictional and non-fictional events Locate main ideas in a series of simple sentences Find information from text structure (e.g., titles, graphs, glossary) Follow text read aloud (e.g., tapes, teacher, paired-readings) Sort/group pre-taught words/phrases Use pre-taught vocabulary (e.g., word banks) to complete simple sentences Use L1 to support L2 (e.g., cognates) Use bilingual dictionaries and glossaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify topic sentences, main ideas, and details in paragraphs Identify multiple meanings of words in context (e.g., “cell,” “table”) Use context clues Make predictions based on illustrated text Identify frequently used affixes and root words to make/extract meaning (e.g., “un-,” “re-,” “-ed”) Differentiate between fact and opinion Answer questions about explicit information in texts Use English dictionaries and glossaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order paragraphs Identify summaries of passages Identify figurative language (e.g., “dark as night”) Interpret adapted classics or modified text Match cause to effect Identify specific language of different genres and informational texts Use an array of strategies (e.g., skim and scan for information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate and apply multiple meanings of words/phrases Apply strategies to new situations Infer meaning from modified grade-level text Critique material and support argument Sort grade-level text by genre 	
WRITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw content-related pictures Produce high frequency words Label pictures and graphs Create vocabulary/concept cards Generate lists from pre-taught words/phrases and word banks (e.g., create menu from list of food groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete pattern sentences Extend “sentence starters” with original ideas Connect simple sentences Complete graphic organizers/forms with personal information Respond to yes/no, choice, and some WH- questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce short paragraphs with main ideas and some details (e.g., column notes) Create compound sentences (e.g., with conjunctions) Explain steps in problem-solving Compare/contrast information, events, characters Give opinions, preferences, and reactions along with reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create multiple-paragraph essays Justify ideas Produce content-related reports Use details/examples to support ideas Use transition words to create cohesive passages Compose intro/body/conclusion Paraphrase or summarize text Take notes (e.g., for research) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create expository text to explain graphs/charts Produce research reports using multiple sources/citations Begin using analogies Critique literary essays or articles 	

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