

- Prefixes and suffixes
- Cognates [words that are similar in spelling and pronunciation to words in another language such as fortunate/afortunado (Spanish), traditional – tradicional (Spanish)]
- Idioms [raining cats and dogs, cover all the bases]
- Pronunciation and spelling that change word forms [verb – organize and noun – organization]

The language of English language arts includes narrative and expository structures. Readings may reflect cultural values, shared knowledge, and discourse organization that differs from the English learner’s native culture. It may be necessary to help students build background knowledge of unfamiliar contexts.

Components and Strands

There are three components and four strands interwoven throughout the English as a Second Language (ESL) Essential Standards. The extent to which each component is exhibited within the communication of an English learner reflects the level of that student’s English language proficiency, as evidenced in the Performance Definitions. Linguistic complexity, vocabulary usage, and language control increase incrementally as students progress from one ELP level into the next. The four strands designate the four domains of language at each proficiency level.

Components of Language Development

- Linguistic Complexity – extent of elaboration of written or spoken communication (discourse), the types and variety of grammatical structures, the organization and cohesion of ideas and the use of text structures for specific genres (*example: “a shiny new convertible with music blaring raced down the lane” is more complex than “a car”*)
- Vocabulary Usage - ability to adjust word selection from general terms to more context specific language, and finally to specialized content-specific technical language (*example: person- character – protagonist*)
- Language Control - comprehensibility of a communication based on the amount and type of errors in grammar, spelling, fluency, pronunciation, or word choice (*example: I am happy v. I be happy*)

Strands by Language Domain

Listening – comprehension of spoken language, including

- sounds, stress, and intonation,
- directions,
- questions,
- discussions, and
- oral presentations and stories