

Essential Components of English Language Development

Vocabulary

Terms: *What are some of the essential words and phrases that English learners need for social and academic purposes?*

- General and specific nouns
- Verbs of being and doing
- “survival” words
- Idioms & collocations
- Transferable academic terms
- Subject-specific vocabulary

Functions

Tasks: *What are some of the communicative purposes English learners must learn to navigate?*

- Express social courtesies
- Participate in discussions
- Give & follow directions
- Express needs, likes & feelings
- Ask & answer questions
- Describe people & things; places and locations
- Relate observable events; narrate past events
- Classify; compare & contrast
- Express cause & effect; predict outcomes
- Generalize; draw conclusions

Forms

Tools: *What are the discourse and grammatical tools needed to communicate for different purposes?*

- Syntax – words order
- Subject/verb agreement
- Conventions for formal and informal use
- Verbals: tenses, auxiliaries, forms
- Adjectives & adverbs
- Conjunctions & subordination
- Pronouns
- Prepositions
- Determiners & articles
- Sentence variation & complexity

Fluency

Trying it out: *What do English learners need to practice to develop accurate and fluent use of language?*

- Use spoken English flexibly to communicate with others
- Identify and classify word classes and patterns
- Understand and respond in conversations without hesitation
- Produce speech with appropriate speed, intonation, stress and volume
- Adapt reading strategies for a variety of purposes
- Practice comprehensible enunciation, pronunciation, and articulation

Adapted from: “A focused approach for English Learner Instruction” E.L. Achieve, Susana Dutro et al
www.elachieve.org