

English Language Development (ESL) Standards and Benchmarks High School

LEVEL 4

Standard 1 :Uses the target language to speak in a variety of contexts.

Benchmarks

1.1 Understands and uses simple structures and vocabulary to engage in guided conversations when prompted and, to express basic functional needs.

1:2 Produces proper sounds when reading simple texts and in high frequency phrases.

Standard 2: Uses the target language to communicate in writing using a variety of styles, with different purposes and audiences.

Benchmark 2:1 Can produce simple, correct sentences in the target language using basic conventional structures and vocabulary when writing dialogues, essays and letters at a length of 80-100 words.

Benchmark 2:2 Can distinguish formal and informal forms of address as well as impersonal structures.

Benchmark 2:3 Knows and uses in writing a basic number of common idiomatic expressions. Understands that many expressions are not translated literally between languages.

Standard 3: Understands and interprets the spoken target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 3:1 Understands basic ideas in oral messages and simple conversations on familiar topics. Can recognize phrase groupings and voice inflection.

Standard 4: Understands and interprets the written target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 4:1 Understands the main ideas in texts containing a basic level of vocabulary and brief notes dealing with familiar topics. Understands and can identify basic literary elements (i.e. characters, theme) in level-appropriate texts.

Benchmark 4:2 Can recognize and understand common cognates associated with a basic vocabulary of about 600 words. Can recognize and understand common prefixes and suffixes that affect the

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meaning or function of words.

Standard 5: Understands the perspectives, practices and contributions of the target culture and uses the knowledge to interact effectively in cultural settings.

Benchmark 5:1 Can identify famous individuals of the target culture who are internationally recognized and knows their basic contribution to the culture.

Benchmark 5:2 Can use target culture etiquette in the context of classroom teacher and peers. Knows and can identify various (ethnic) groups within the target culture.

Benchmark 5:3 Can identify basic utilitarian products of the target culture such as common dress, currency, foods, etc. Knows name, location and basic geographical aspects of the target culture lands.

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LEVEL 2

Standard 1: Uses the target language to speak in a variety of contexts.

Benchmark 1.1 Uses appropriate structures and vocabulary to engage in various ways of oral communication, exchanging information and expressing functional needs. Is able to initiate a conversation and express opinions with autonomy using varied grammatical structures.

Benchmark 1:2 Produces proper sounds when reading level-appropriate material and in simple discourse.

Standard 2: Uses the target language to communicate in writing using a variety of styles, with different purposes and audiences.

Benchmark 2:1 Can produce correct sentences in the target language in present, past and future tenses using a variety of grammatical structures and vocabulary when writing forms, notes, posters and skits up to a length of 120-150 words.

Benchmark 2:2 Knows and can use words, expressions and functions appropriately in polite and familiar settings.

Benchmark 2:3 Knows and uses in writing a number of idiomatic expressions encountered in common social contexts.

Standard 3 : Understands and interprets the spoken target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 3:1 Understands general ideas from spoken texts and conversations on a variety of topics.

Standard 4: Understands and interprets the written target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 4:1 Understands the main ideas in texts supported by illustrations and containing a basic level of vocabulary as well as short letters written on a variety of familiar topics.

Benchmark 4:2 Can recognize and understand cognates associated with a basic vocabulary of about 1200 words. Can recognize and understand all prefixes and suffixes that affect the meaning or function of words.

Standard 5: Understands the perspectives, practices and contributions of the target culture and uses the knowledge to interact effectively in cultural settings.

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Benchmark 5:1 Can identify a variety of famous individuals of the target culture and knows their basic contribution to the culture. Knows basic beliefs and perspectives of the target culture.

Benchmark 5:2 Knows common social behavior patterns and family expectations of an age group of the target culture.

Benchmark 5:3 Knows and can identify the difference between current, popular clothing and traditional dress in the target culture and how changing seasons affect dress. Knows how to use social infrastructures for travel and lodging in a target country.

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LEVEL 3

Standard 1: Uses the target language to speak in a variety of contexts.

Benchmark 1.1 Uses the target language to exchange spontaneously information by comparing and contrasting and expressing functional needs (feelings, emotions and opinions). Is able to express own ideas using full grammatical structures guided by prompts.

Benchmark 1:2 Produces proper sounds when reading level-appropriate material and in independent discourse.

Standard 2 : Uses the target language to communicate in writing using a variety of styles, with different purposes and audiences.

Benchmark 2:1 Knows and can use all of the major grammatical elements and an expressive vocabulary of the target language when writing biographies, poems, cartoons, brochures and note-making at a length of 150-200 words.

Benchmark 2:2 Can nuance the target language applying modalities and differentiating between vernacular and literary styles.

Benchmark 2:3 Knows and uses in writing a wide range of functions, expressions and idioms.

Benchmark 2:4 Recognizes and can distinguish in writing between phonemes and homonyms.

Standard 3 : Understands and interprets the spoken target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 3:1 Understands main ideas and key words from spoken announcements, messages and authentic spoken media.

Standard 4: Understands and interprets the written target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 4:1 Understands the content in personal letters and illustrated articles on a variety of familiar topics. Can use context and word patterns to decode unfamiliar words or phrases.

Benchmark 4:2 Can recognize and understand a target language vocabulary of about 1800 words. Knows and understands how cognates and other patterns of words reveal the history and evolution of a language.

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Standard 5: Understands the perspectives, practices and contributions of the target culture and uses the knowledge to interact effectively in cultural settings.

Benchmark 5:1 Can identify the origin of a variety of cultural products and make connections between the products and cultural values.

Benchmark 5:2 Knows common social celebrations and traditions of the target culture in general as well as those of particular groups.

Benchmark 5:3 Understands the educational system of the target culture. Knows details of both natural and artificial environments of different regions within a target country.

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LEVEL 4

Standard 1: Uses the target language to speak in a variety of contexts.

Benchmark 1.1 Uses target language to argue and defend in depth personal opinions on a wide range of topics. Can speak spontaneously and accurately with a wide range of vocabulary.

Benchmark 1:2 Produces proper sounds when reading aloud and in spontaneous discourse.

Standard 2: Uses the target language to communicate in writing using a variety of styles, with different purposes and audiences.

Benchmark 2:1 Knows and can use all the grammatical elements of the target language in modern usage, as well as some archaic structures, when writing short stories, speeches, newspaper articles and letters of different styles using a wide range of vocabulary up to a length of 250-300 words.

Benchmark 2:2 Can determine the need for, as well as apply, any specific style of writing.

Benchmark 2:3 Knows and uses in writing a wide range of functions, expressions and idioms. Understands that many expressions are linked to the culture and history of the target culture.

Standard 3 :Understands and interprets the spoken target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 3:1 Understands and recognizes differences in accents and regional usages or colloquial phrases.

Standard 4 : Understands and interprets the written target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 4:1 Understands the content in formal and informal writing on a variety of topics. Understands and can identify main literary elements and significant details in developmentally appropriate literary works of different styles and formats.

Benchmark 4:2 Can recognize and understand a target language vocabulary of about 2400 words. Understand how to use cognates and other patterns of words to predict unseen words and expand vocabulary.

Standard 5 : Understands the perspectives, practices and contributions of the target culture and uses the knowledge to interact effectively in

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cultural settings.

Benchmark 5:1 Can distinguish and compare differing cultural trends within the target culture and contrast these with one's own culture.

Benchmark 5:2 Can compare and contrast differences between the behaviors and traditions of sub-cultures within the main target culture as well as with one's own culture.

Benchmark 5:3 Knows cultural expectations and influences that come from religious, family and social institutions and how this may vary in different regions.

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LEVEL 5

Standard 1: Uses the target language to speak in a variety of contexts.

Benchmark 1.1 Uses target language to explore and debate controversial issues. Can speak naturally with fluency using a variety of idiomatic expressions.

Standard 2 : Uses the target language to communicate in writing using a variety of styles, with different purposes and audiences.

Benchmark 2:1 Knows how to use the grammatical and structural nuances of the target language when writing diaries, formal letters, speeches, guides, journalistic articles and advertisements with a rich vocabulary at a length of 300-350 words.

Benchmark 2:2 Able to apply the proper target language conventions in all situations.

Benchmark 2:3 Can spontaneously write using an array of expressions and idioms in proper context.

Standard 3 : Understands and interprets the spoken target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 3:1 Understands main ideas and significant details of extended discussions, lectures and formal presentations in fluent, native speech.

Standard 4 : Understands and interprets the written target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 4:1 Understands the content of expository texts on topics of current and thematic importance. Understands and can identify details illustrating the cultural point of view of literary works.

Benchmark 4:2 Can recognize and understand a target language vocabulary of more than 2500 words.

Standard 5 : Understands the perspectives, practices and contributions of the target culture and uses the knowledge to interact effectively in cultural settings.

Benchmark 5:1 Knows and understands the expressive forms (products of all the arts) of the target culture. Can illustrate the evolution of cultural perspective through recourse to express cultural products.

Benchmark 5:2 Understands the connection between behavior patterns and cultural perspective. Knows and understands sources of cultural continuity and

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change.

Benchmark 5:3 Knows the history of the political evolution of the target country. Understands how the modern political system and all other utilitarian forms of the target country are expressions of cultural values.

LEVEL 6

Standard 1: Uses the target language to speak in a variety of contexts.

Benchmark 1.1 Uses conversational strategies to redirect topics in any given context. Is able to prompt communication in a near native way.

Standard 2: Uses the target language to communicate in writing using a variety of styles, with different purposes and audiences.

Benchmark 2:1 Knows how to use the grammatical and structural nuances of the target language with a rich vocabulary when writing in any existing genre and style at a length of 400-450 words.

Benchmark 2:2 Able to apply the proper target language conventions in all situations.

Benchmark 2:3 Can spontaneously write use an array of expressions and idioms in proper context.

Standard 3: Understands and interprets the spoken target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 3:1 Understands and interprets main ideas and significant details of extended discussions, lectures and formal presentations.

Standard 4 : Understands and interprets the written target language on a variety of topics from diverse media.

Benchmark 4:1 Understands the content of modern texts of the target culture. Understands and can identify elements of style appropriate to an author.

Benchmark 4:2 Can recognize and understand a target language vocabulary of more than 2500 words.

Standard 5 : Understands the perspectives, practices and contributions of the target culture and uses the knowledge to interact effectively in cultural settings.

Benchmark 5:1 Can interpret one's own expressive cultural products from the perspective of the target culture.

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Benchmark 5:2 Knows and understands the connection between the evolving target culture and the evolution of cultures in general.

Benchmark 5:3 Knows and understands how all the utilitarian forms of the target country continue to evolve through various current social pressures and movements.