

### Stages of Second Language Acquisition

Stage	Period	Characteristics	Examples
I Silent/Receptive or Pre-Production	10 hours to 6 months	Receptive vocabulary about 500 words	Responds to simple commands. May point or answer simple yes/no questions
II Early Production	6 months	Receptive and expressive vocabulary of approximately 1000 words.	Says 1-2 word utterances. Shows understanding by giving short answers to yes/no, either/or, who/what/where questions.
III Speech Emergence	About 1 year	Receptive and expressive vocabulary around 3000 words	Uses short phrases and simple sentences. May continue with grammatical errors.
IV Intermediate Language Proficiency	About 1 year	Receptive and expressive vocabulary around 6000 words	Uses more complex statements, expresses thoughts and opinions.
V Advanced Language Proficiency	5-7 years or more after Stage 1	Specialized vocabulary related to content areas	Uses English grammar and vocabulary comparable to a native speaker. Able to actively participate in grade level classroom activities.

Adapted from Cummins (1981, 1996) and Thomas & Collier (1997).