National Reporting System Levels for Adult ESOL Programs

The National Reporting System (NRS) has divided the ESOL levels of achievement into six levels. These levels are used when reporting student achievement.

The NRS has assigned titles to these six levels. They are:
1. Beginning ESL Literacy
2. Beginning ESL
3. Low Intermediate ESL
4. High Intermediate ESL
5. Low Advanced ESL
6. High Advanced ESL

Student Performance Levels (SPLs)

*SPLs describe the student’s level of knowledge of the English language.*

1. Student cannot speak or understand English.
2. Student can understand some simple and frequently used words in context.
3. Student can understand phrases if spoken slowly with frequent repetition.
4. Student can participate in conversation in limited social situations, and communicate basic survival needs with some help.
5. Student can converse on many everyday subjects, but may need repetition, rewording or slower speech. Individual has basic control of grammar.
6. Student can understand and participate effectively in face-to-face conversations on everyday subjects spoken at normal speed, can understand survival, work, and social situations.

Student’s Workplace Skills

1. Level I—Minimal or no English. Uses gestures or isolated words. May recognize only common signs. Can handle only routine jobs that require no oral communication. No knowledge of computers or technology.
2. Level II—Uses simple words and phrases with frequent repetition. Can fill out simple forms, recognize labels and product names, can handle jobs that require basic oral and written English.

“I don’t belived this is U.S.A. When I came first time, I asked by myself, I felt the people very nice, and humburger is bigger also, just don’t know how to order. But now I am very lucky. Have a good teacher, I will strive to learn English.”

—Student Learner
3. **Level III**—Interprets directions, schedules, signs and maps, fills out simple forms. Handles entry-level jobs that involve written or oral English. Uses simple computer programs and FAX machines.

4. **Level IV**—Meets basic survival and social needs, follows simple oral and written instruction, communicates on phone, writes messages, completes forms and job applications. Can work on computers.

5. **Level V**—Functions to meet survival needs, uses phone, reads charts, handles jobs with oral and written instructions, uses computers.

6. **Level VI**—Uses English in social and work situations; interprets charts, graphs, tables, and forms. Communicates on phone, understands radio, TV, and can instruct software use.

"When I came to America, there were a bit supermarket and a big parking." —Student Learner