

Understanding Our ELL Levels

1

- **BEGINNING**

- Students are at the very *beginning* of the process of learning English. They understand little or no English.

2

- **DEVELOPING** (Upper Beginning)

- Students are able to *understand varying amounts* of everyday English. They repeat or read simple, routine phrases or sentences but cannot yet use the language to communicate their thoughts and opinions. Students make frequent grammatical errors and use limited vocabulary.

3

- **EXPANDING** (Intermediate)

- Students *can communicate* ideas in English but have difficulty with correct grammatical usage in their oral and written language, and very often omit words or incorrectly form their phrases and sentences. They need support with content language and vocabulary development.

4

- **CONSOLIDATING** (Early Advanced)

- Students have *little difficulty communicating* their ideas in English. They require support with idiomatic expressions, words with multiple meanings, and abstract academic concepts.

5

- **BRIDGING** (Approaching Fluency) IELTS ≥ 5

- Students are *approaching grade-level proficiency* in English. They may need support with the nuances of language in specific situations (idioms, humour, and content areas unfamiliar to the student.)