

## CASAS Skill Level Descriptors – Listening

CASAS Level Scale Score	NRS ESL Level	Descriptor
D 228+		<b>Exit from Advanced ESL</b> Individuals at this level can participate in conversations on most everyday subjects spoken at normal speed with occasional repetition. They can understand routine work-related conversations. They generally comprehend the main idea of conversations on unfamiliar topics, and can understand a variety of complex structures. They can understand narrative and informational communications on some specialized and technical topics in familiar contexts when spoken slowly. They can understand the main points and some details of most telephone conversations and broadcast communications on familiar topics. They use listening strategies such as identifying structural patterns and contextual clues to interpret unfamiliar spoken language.
C 219-227	6	<b>Advanced ESL</b> Individuals at this level generally can comprehend communication in most routine life-skill and social contexts. They can participate in conversations on a variety of everyday subjects, including some involving unfamiliar vocabulary, but may need repetition or rewording. They can interpret a variety of grammatical features and many complex sentence structures. They have some ability to understand telephone conversations on familiar topics. They can understand the main idea and some details of informational communication on non-technical topics, simple discussions, and descriptive narrative in familiar contexts. They can recognize tone and degree of formality in speech in a variety of situations. They can follow detailed spoken directions on familiar topics.
B 210-218	5	<b>High Intermediate ESL</b> Individuals at this level can participate in simple conversations on familiar and some unfamiliar subjects spoken slowly and with some repetition, and can interpret some informal speech using colloquial language. They can understand learned phrase easily and short new phrases containing familiar vocabulary. They can understand some longer sentences, and can interpret some complex sentence structures. They have limited ability to understand simple telephone conversations. They can recognize the main idea and understand some supporting details expressed in everyday spoken language and brief informational message on familiar topics. They can follow directions in familiar contexts, including simple multi-step directions.
B 200-209	4	<b>Low Intermediate ESL</b> Individuals at this level can understand simple conversation on everyday subjects containing familiar vocabulary and simple sentences, spoken slowly and repeated. They can follow routine social interaction, with some difficulty. They can understand simple learned phrases and recognize new words and phrases. They can interpret basic sentence structures and distinguish basic verb tenses. They can understand the subject and the general gist of spoken language in familiar contexts. They can follow simple directions in familiar contexts.
A 190-199	3	<b>High Beginning ESL</b> Individuals at this level can understand simplified conversation on everyday subjects containing frequently used words in context and very simple phrases, spoken slowly and repeated. They can understand simple greetings, common social language, and questions about basic personal information. They can recognize very basic sentence structures, and can understand simple commands, requests, and warnings related to immediate needs. They frequently require assistance (rephrasing, explanation, demonstration) to understand basic communication.
A 181-189	2	<b>Low Beginning ESL</b> Individuals at this level can understand basic greetings and some simple phrases and commands. They can understand simple questions about personal information, spoken slowly and repeated. They understand a limited number of words related to immediate needs. They function minimally in interactions, and have difficulty following even simplified direct communication. They may be able to follow very simple directions when tasks are demonstrated.
A 180 and below	1	<b>Beginning Literacy/Pre-Beginning ESL</b> Individuals at this level have little to no comprehension of spoken English beyond a few common words. They may understand the meaning of communication with simplification and visual support.