

**Stage B1                                  beginning                                  example 1**

**The student**  
**Year Level:** 12 year old girl in Year 5/6  
**Background:** Iraqi background. Came to Australia via Syria.  
**Language:** Arabic  
**Schooling:** up to Year 6 in Iraq. Learnt to read and write in Arabic, but no school in Syria.

**The task**  
 The student was shown a series of pictures, and asked to tell the interviewer [Int] as much as she could about each one.

**The text shows that the student:**

identifies single items of information when talking about pictures

expresses negation using single word *no*

understands past tense

asks two-word questions to check meaning

Int: Aha. Can you tell me about that picture?  
What can you see there?

S: Donkey.

Int: Mhmm.

S: [On]. Children.

Int: What are the children doing? Sitting on the donkeys?

S: Yes.

Int: Riding their donkeys?

S: Yes.

Int: Do they look happy?

S: Yes.

Int: Have you ridden on a donkey?

S: No.

Int: No? Never?

S: Never.

Int: Have you ridden on a horse?

S: Yes.

Int: Aha. Have you ridden on a camel?

S: No.

Int: Have you ridden on a kangaroo?

S: No. [Laughs].

Int: No? Wouldn't you like to ride on a kangaroo?

S: [Laughs]. No.

Int: Some people I know have ridden on an ostrich.

S: What Ostrich?

Int: Do you know what an ostrich is?

S: No.

borrow key words from previous speaker

understands when a conversation is serious or humorous and responds accordingly

This text is an example of a student beginning to work towards B1. She has begun to learn the very basic oral English needed to manage learning in an English-speaking classroom. Her responses are simple, and she understands what is being said. She also understands humour and uses questioning to check meaning.