

Stage B3 Beginning example 1

The student
Year Level: Year 6 (13 years old)
Background: Refugee from Iraq; came via Syria. Family in Australia for 26 months. About to take Australian citizenship.
Language: L1 Aramaic/Arabic – oral only
Schooling: largely unschooled until language centre in Sydney

The task
 The student was asked a series of questions about his background, by an interviewer (Int). This interview is 22 weeks later than the B2 Standard examples 1 and 2.

The text shows that the student:

is trying to express hypotheticals and conditionals

uses a limited range of vocabulary

correctly uses the 'zero' article

S: I leave them alone. They, they ah, I don't expect them to be friends with us.

Int: No?

S: It's their problem, not us.

Int: Aha.

S: If they like to be friends with us, it's OK.

Int: Yeh.

S: If they don't, it's OK.

Int: That's a good attitude to have. Is it that they just kind of pretend that you don't exist, or is it sometimes stronger than that?

S: Yeh, sometimes.

Int: What sorts of things happen then?

S: I don't see them in school. And [inaudible].

expresses negation using 'don't'

can use some colloquial social English

This text is an example of a student beginning to work towards the Standard at B3. He interacts more confidently in an increasing range of informal social situations. He is attempting to explain and express complex ideas related to his experiences but is still drawing on limited language resources to do so, which has resulted in some errors.