

**Stage BL****Standard****example 1****The student****Year Level:** 12 years old, year 5–6**Background:** Refugee from Iraq; father came first. Other family members came via Syria.**Language:** Arabic**Schooling:** interrupted. No school in Syria. Has very limited L1 literacy.**The task**

The student was asked a series of questions about himself and his life in Australia by an interviewer [Int]. He had the assistance of an interpreter [Ips]

**The text shows that the student:**

gives some basic personal information – likes and dislikes

relies on other speakers to interpret and scaffold

creates original expressions, substituting new words in learned patterns

questions to check meaning

responds appropriately verbally or non-verbally

Int: Ahh. So what do you watch on the TV? What programs?  
 S: Soccer. Mm [Speaks to interpreter].  
 Ips: Cartoons.  
 S: Cartoon.  
 Ips: [He wanted to learn] the English language [inaudible] cartoon.  
 S: Play soccer and football. Cricket.  
 Int: Cricket as well? Are you a bowler or batter?  
 S: Mm? [Interpreter speaks to student].  
 Ips: Defence.  
 S: Defence.  
 Int: Ahh. OK. So, on the television you watch cartoons?  
 S: Mm.  
 Int: And you learn English from the cartoons?  
 S: Yeah.  
 Int: What English do you learn?  
 S: I learn [inaudible] understand cartoons. Yeh.  
 Int: Ahh. OK.  
 S: And cartoons speak, slowly, slowly.  
 Int: Do they? Ohh. I thought they spoke really fast. But they're slow?  
 S: Yeah.  
 Int: Yeah? That's good. What cartoon program?  
 S: Simpsons and [speaks to interpreter]. Tom Jerry.  
 Ips: Tom and Jerry?  
 S: Tom and Jerry, yeh. Simpsons.

This text is an example of a student at Stage BL. He communicates simply but effectively in familiar, basic social and classroom contexts, using simple formulaic and creative structures. He uses simple English to respond to the ideas of others. The student's responses are characterised by varying grammatical accuracy and short 'telegraphic' structures. He asks for clarification in his first language. He uses some basic strategies such as repeating to sustain a simple conversation in English.