

Stage S1 progressing towards example 4

The student

Year Level: Year 7, female

Background: Sudanese, refugee, time spent in Kakuma refugee camp

Language: Dinka

Schooling: No previous formal schooling before arriving in Australia, spent 1 year in an English language school in Victoria, exiting to Year 3. Receives 4 x 70 minutes ESL withdrawal from mainstream class per week.

The task

The student was asked to write about herself or her family. This is the student's first draft. Two versions of the text were completed by the student: a handwritten version and a word processed document.

Text as produced on computer

The day before coming to Australia was very exciting because was

Went to the shops for clothe to wear on the plane and clothe to

Change with when we arrive. My dad bought me this lovely dress it was orange and at that time my favourite colour was orange.

My mum's hair got platted really nice but mine couldn't be platted because it was too short.

After the shopping we went home to pack our bags I gave some of my best clothe to some girls my mum gave some of her clothe and gave other staff because we all had to give something.

Everyone had dinner and at 6'o'clock a van came to take us to the airport on the way I saw things I had not seen before.

It was my first time to go to the airport and every thing looked so different , we got drinks I had fanta we were the last people to get out of the airport we said good bye to people we knew and got on the plane. The plane was so big just fur minuets later I asked my dad if I could go the toilet. We got food in the plane don't know how long we spend on the plane but it was a great time

uses basic features for word processing

The text shows that the student:

attempts to use paragraphs

writes using sentences which reflect oral language

uses common time markers

use some punctuation with consistency

uses common irregular past tense verbs correctly e.g. was, gave, went spells frequently used words correctly

uses basic features for word processing

The day before coming to Australia was very exciting because we went to the shops for clothe to wear on the plane and clothe to change with when we arrive. My dad bought me this lovely dress to wear on the plane it was orange and at that time my favourite colour then was orange. My mums hair got platted really nice but mine couldn't be platted because it was too small. After the shopping we went home and packed our bag I gave some of my best clothe to some other girls I knew my mum gave her clothe and other staff we all had to give something. everyone had dinner and just at six o'clock we went into a van to take us to the ~~airport~~ airport on the way I saw things I had seen before

This is an example of a student progressing towards the standard at S1 (S1.2). The student recounts a personal experience using past tense and time markers appropriately. The layout of the word processed document might be the result of the student's familiarity with the features of the software program. Some of the spelling errors in the handwritten version have been corrected in the word processed document, possibly by the autocorrect tool rather than by the student using the spell check tool.