

Stage S1 Standard example 1

The student
Year Level: 14 years old
Background: born in China; in Australia ~3 months
Language: Mandarin Chinese
Schooling: Age equivalent schooling including several years of EFL lessons (one per day).

The task
 This was a beginning of semester diagnostic task. The students were given a picture stimulus and asked to write an imaginative piece about it. They had to decide who the characters would be (not mother/father and child) and create a story. (Note: This student is not the same student who wrote S2 beginning, example 2, although the background is similar.)

The text shows that the student:

writes correctly simple sentences about pictures using vocabulary and structures practised orally

attempts paragraphs and topic sentences

writes using short sentences/statements; conjunction and references are explicit and repetitive, typical of spoken mode

writes a text focusing more on meaning than grammatical accuracy



On 1991, June 1st, ^{was} one baby born in Australia. That was very cute baby, but he had some disease. This baby live in the hospital, very long time. He was born in 3 month. He was nearly die and his mother died. His father went to another Country. just his grand father looked after him.

His grandfather was upset because his grandchild nearly die. Every day baby looked like cried because the baby was hunger for his mother's milk. Every day baby's grandfather looked after him and play games with baby. 2day later baby's disease is very bad. baby die at once. His grand was very sad. 3 hours later baby was die. The baby closed his eyes. The grandfather cried. The grandfather was hold baby's hand. This baby died just 3 months.

uses single clauses or coordinating and subordinating conjunctions to combine clauses

uses pronouns and basic referents to maintain cohesion and avoid repetition

uses common time markers to link and sequence ideas

uses familiar vocabulary, structures, phrases

use modelled features appropriate to text type, e.g. attempt to use past tense in a recount

This text is an example of a student at Stage S1 Standard. He can write for a range of basic classroom and personal purposes, here writing an imaginative text. His basic sentences and short texts are based on well-practised spoken English and familiar contexts. He writes with varying grammatical accuracy, expressing himself using familiar vocabulary and modelled structures and features. He orders and sequences sentences about familiar topics into coherent texts, incorporating paragraphs. He corrects some errors relating to targeted grammatical items. Additional information is provided through the illustration.