

Stage S2 beginning example 1

The student
Year Level: 8
Background: Iraqi. Came after some time in Syria waiting for a visa
Language: Aramaic/Arabic
Schooling: interrupted. Language school in Sydney

The task
 A one-to-one interview, where the student was able to respond at length to prompt questions from the interviewer (int).

The text shows that the student:

can initiate a topic change in a conversation

can give a short impromptu response on a familiar topic

can maintain an exchange using turn taking

makes a direct appeal for assistance

Int Right. That sounds like a very useful thing

S Yeah, but when we come to the TAFE to, you know, they don't have any English the people, some of what going here. Just they learn English and I just like send a letter for them, to help them. And I work too, and now we doing you know the certificates for- like it's dangerous for the peoples. Like if the people have accident in the car, like what you can, like certificate level one we do.

Int so, you're working as an interpreter?

S Yeah, like, sometimes

Int Of course yeh. OK. With this youth service, writing the books, and with what have I insured kind of thing? Is that right?

S I no understand you meaning

Int OK. What did you say about the insurance thing?

S The insurance thing. Just like we take the certificate for, for they help. Like when I do work, I know how to act certificate number one.

uses features of the English tense system, but not consistently accurately (fromS1)

can usually use correct pronouns, but makes some errors

needs an attentive conversation partner who asks for clarification, paraphrasing etc to express complex meanings

This student is beginning to work towards the Standard at S2 and can respond to questions related to immediate social and familiar topics with scaffolding. (Although he may still make mistakes, he has gained the confidence to offer complex information. He attempts to use the language creatively beyond set formulaic expressions for well rehearsed tasks, such as giving this impromptu story about a familiar topic.) Although he might not yet be able to use it effectively, he demonstrates an awareness that language changes between social and formal contexts.