ACCESS
Checking in on your second language
Learn about the ACCESS test for English proficiency

➔ Parts of the test
➔ Tools to help you
➔ Types of questions
➔ How to answer
What is ACCESS?

→ ACCESS measures how well you are able to use English in an academic setting

→ If your first language was not English, you are considered an *English Language Learner*. 
...but I speak English!

ACCESS measures your academic English.

- Listening
- Reading
- Speaking
- Writing

This is the more complicated English that you see in the classroom.

It is more than just a daily conversation with friends and family.
Six levels of English

6 Student who are at an advanced level of **academic** English. They use English at the same level as an advanced native speaker of English.

5

4

3

2

1 Students who are just beginning to learn English. They are at a very basic level.
Your target/objective...

Do your best.
Show growth.
Rate yourself!

On a scale of 1 to 6, how well do you think you do in each of the following?

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
Tips for the **writing** section

Use *scratch paper* or the in-test *sticky note tool* to plan your writing.

Plan first, and then write.

When you take the test online, use the *Back button* to re-read information or review your writing.
More tips for the **writing** section

When you’re done writing, **re-read** your work and **fix any errors** you find.

Do your best with spelling and grammar.

Use the word banks, example responses, and sentence starters *if they’re helpful*. You don’t have to use these words if you don’t want to.
Remember to

1. Stop, breathe in and out, and **think** about what you will say before you hit the record button. Then **speak clearly and do not whisper**.

2. **Take your full turn** to talk.

3. Follow **Nina’s example** to know how long to talk and the types of words and sentences you should use.
Remember to

4. Use modifiers, conjunctions, and prepositional phrases to **extend what you are saying**.

5. Make your speaking show your complex thoughts.

6. Use the pictures to help guide your response.
Remember to

7. Have you thought of everything you can say about this?

8. Do not hit stop until you are sure you have finished.
Students can...

- Pause to think before hitting record.
- Write notes to themselves while listening to the prompt.
- Ask for help on how to use the technology.
Use the program “Screen Castify” to record your voice.
You may record yourself as many times as you want. If you save a recording it goes directly to the Screencastify on our Google Drive.

**PRACTICE. GET USED TO TALKING INTO A HEADSET** so that you can demonstrate your speaking ability.

Practice Recording Your Voice
Practice recording your voice.

Use a headset with a microphone to speak about what you see in the pictures that follow. There is no right or wrong answer. The purpose is to speak as much as possible and use your best vocabulary to show your complex thoughts.

- Make a conversation between the characters.
- Describe what is happening.
- Tell a story.
Tutorials These are videos that teach you how to use the tools on this test and how to take the different kinds of tests.

Take a practice test
Test Practice

ACCESS for ELLs®

WIDA Screener
Check with your state for availability

Sample Items
View Sample Items
In conclusion...

❖ Pay attention to how the computer test functions.
❖ Take the test seriously
❖ Do your best to show how well you can understand and use academic English.

Achieve the highest level,
Have good grades
Do well on the CMAS test

And you don’t have to take this test again!