



Santa Maria-Bonita
School District

ELPAC

Test Taking Tips for Students and Teachers

Multilingual Services Department

Before you practice...

Teachers

- Share students' ELPAC scores if you haven't already.
- Hold goal-setting/ELPAC chats with students. Discuss their glows and grows within the language domains and what they may need to focus on during the upcoming ELPAC assessment.
- Discuss what academic vocabulary is versus everyday vocabulary. ELPAC wants to see academic language.
 - What language does a scientist use? A mathematician? A historian?

Conversing like a Scientist



Students

What academic language do you see?

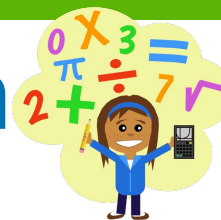
Academic Science Conversation	Informal Science Conversation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Let's predict what will happen!● What did we discover during our experiment?● What inference can we make about our discovery?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What's gonna happen?● What happened?● What do you think will happen?



Watch [this video](#) and see what academic science language you can identify!

Check out the [I am a scientist poster](#) and [activities](#).

Conversing like a Mathematician



Students

What academic language do you see?

Academic Math Conversation	Informal Math Conversation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let's solve this equation. Can we multiply to solve the problem? Let's add 5 plus 3 to equal 8. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's the answer? How do we answer this question? Let's do the problem.



Watch [this video](#) and see what academic science language you can identify!

Check out the [I am a mathematician](#) poster!







Practice ELPAC Tests

- [ELPAC Practice Tests by grade level](#)
- [ELPAC Prep Slides](#)

For practice with assignments within our District curriculum, review the types of tasks in the ELPAC Assessment.

- Go to [ELPAC resources](#), scroll to ELPAC domain information sheets, ELPAC Summative to see each language domain's sheet.

Speaking Tips

- 
 - You can take notes but not script.
 - Make note of academic language you want to use.
 - Make note of main ideas and details you want to talk about.
- 
 - Don't press record until you are ready! Do not rush.
- 
 - Speak clearly and not too soft so the microphone can hear you.
- 
 - Look for cognates in the directions to help understanding.



Speaking Tips

- ELPAC scores on the **quality** of language you use.
 - Are your sentences simple, or do they have more details? Use different types of sentences.
 - Are you using academic vocabulary? (science words, math words, social studies words) Try using some of the **12 Powerful Words** !



- Do your best!



What are cognates?

- Cognates are words in different languages that are the same or similar.
- Here are some examples of Spanish and English cognates:
 - Menu/Menú
 - Union/Unión
 - Fiction/Ficción
 - Attention/Atención
- Be careful of false cognates!





Example false cognates:
 Pregnant – Embarazada.
 Embarrassment – vergüenza.
 Answer – Contestar.
 To return – regresar.
 To remind, recall – recordar.
 To record – grabar.

Teachers

Speaking Practice

- Use assignments that are similar to ELPAC prompts.
- Model and practice together and independently the different types of sentences (simple, compound, complex).
- Review the language levels chart with students.
- Have students use headphones and practice speaking into a microphone if they don't already.
 - Padlet, Flip (Flipgrid), and See Saw are examples of online platforms for practice.
- Have them speak into the microphones with other students around so they are comfortable speaking in front of others.

Writing Tips

- 
 - You can take notes or use a thinking map.
 - Make note of academic language you want to use.
 - Make note of main ideas and details you want to talk about.
- 
 - Look for cognates in the directions to help understanding.



Writing Tips

- ELPAC scores on the **quality** of language you use.
 - Are your sentences simple, or do they have more details? Use different types of sentences.
 - Are you using academic vocabulary? (science words, math words, social studies words) Try using some of the **12 Powerful Words** !



- Do your best!

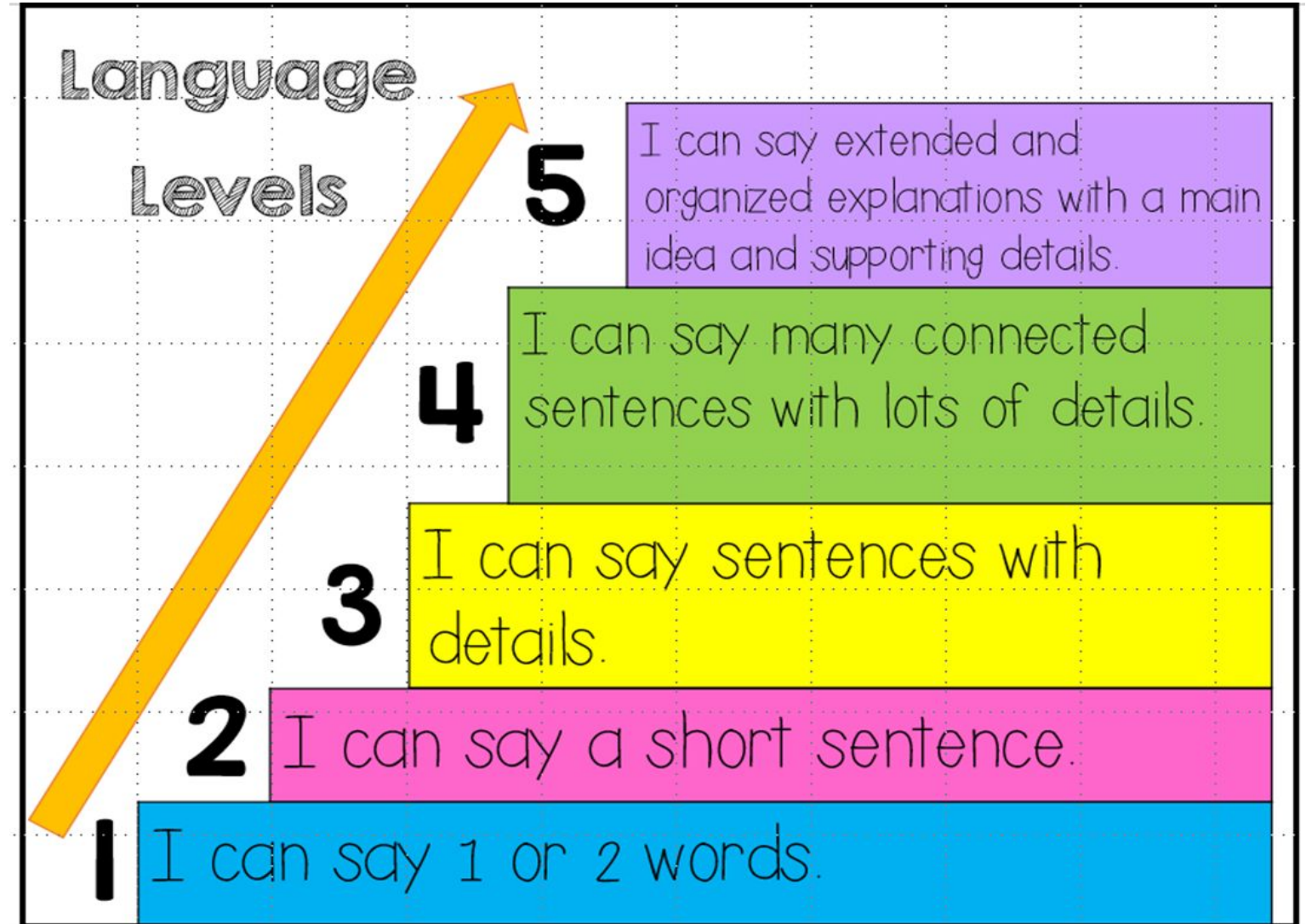




Writing Practice

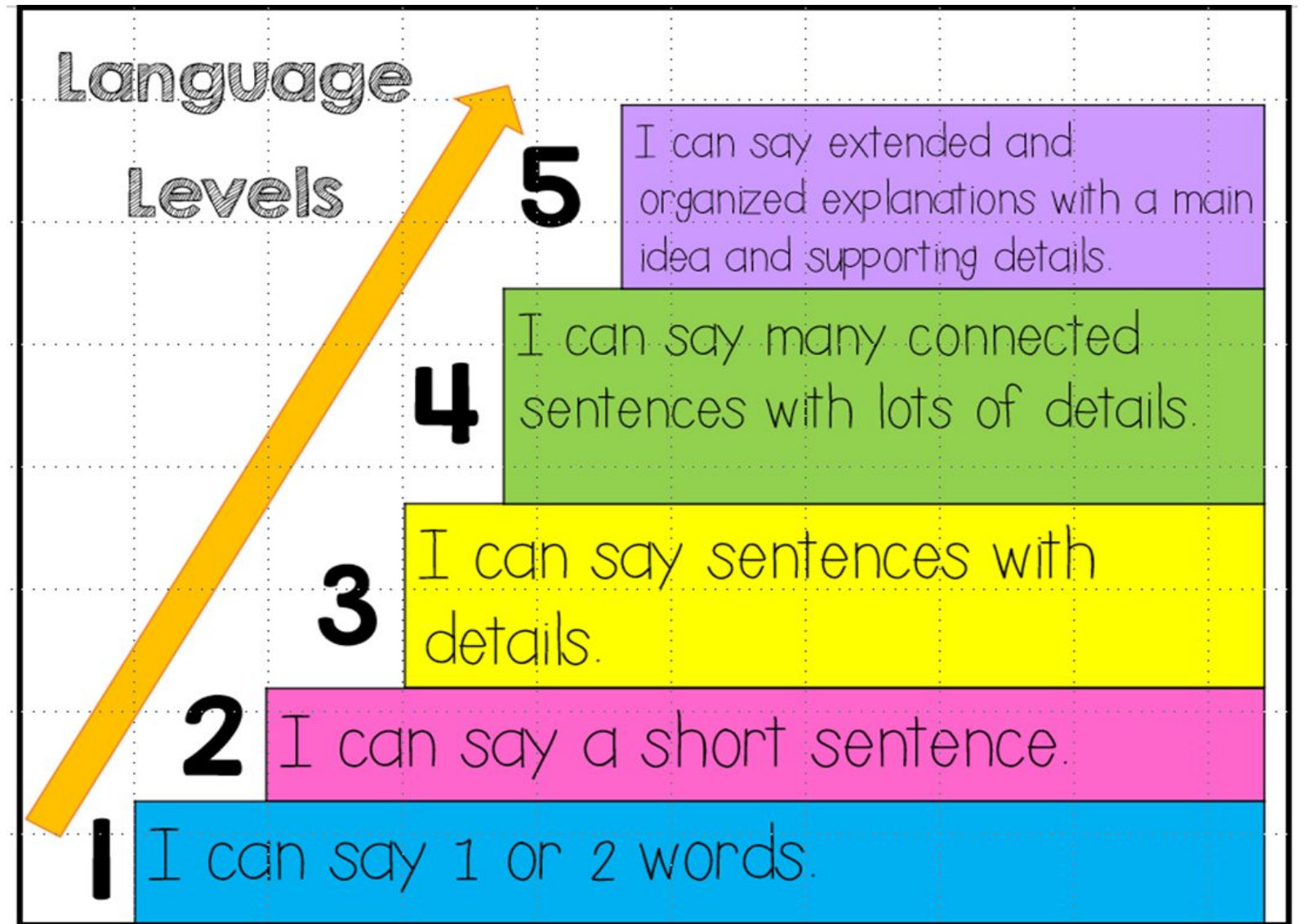
- Use assignments that are similar to ELPAC prompts.
- Model and practice together and independently the different types of sentences (simple, compound, complex).
- Review the language levels chart with students.

During speaking and writing, our goal is to speak and write sentences like a 4 or 5 using academic language!





We are all at different stages of learning English, so each stage is okay to be at.



Simple Sentence vs. Complex Sentence



historycoolkids



This sentence has five words. Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It's like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety.





Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals--sounds that say listen to this, it is important.

GARY PROVOST (*100 Ways to Improve Your Writing*, 1985)

Esta oración tiene cinco palabras. Aquí hay cinco palabras más. Oraciones de cinco palabras funcionan. Varias juntas se vuelven monótonas. Escuche lo que está sucediendo. La escritura se vuelve aburrida. Su sonido tararea de continuo. Es como un disco atascado. El oído exige una variedad.



Ahora escucha. Puedo variar la longitud de la oración, y crear música. Música. La escritura canta. Tiene un ritmo agradable, una cadencia, una armonía. Uso oraciones cortas. Y uso oraciones de longitud media. Y a veces, cuando estoy seguro de que el lector está descansado, lo atrapo con una oración de considerable longitud, una oración que arde con energía y se construye con todo el ímpetu de un crescendo, el redoble de los tambores, el estruendo de los címbalos: - sonidos que dicen escucha esto, es importante.

Listening Tips

-  • Listen carefully.
-  • Eliminate 2 answers, and then choose between the other 2 choices.
-  • The test gets harder the further you go. Take a short mental break if you need to clear your mind or use the restroom.
-  • Look and listen for cognates to help understanding.



Listening Tips

-  ● You can take notes or use a thinking map! Write down:
 - Academic language you hear.
 - Main ideas and details you think are important.
-  ● Do your best!






Listening Practice

Practice listening with students by...

- Reading parts of an article out loud and posing questions for them to answer.
- Showing a video for students and having them answer questions.
- Holding regular class discussions with students- whole group, small group, and in pairs!
 - Model language you want students to use. Provide a word bank and sentence frames or stems. All students can benefit from these scaffolds!



Reading Tips

-  ● Pace your time.
-  ● Look for cognates to help understanding.
- Eliminate 2 answers, and then choose between the other 2 choices.
-  ● Do your best!





Reading Practice

- They will have the picture or text on the left and the questions will follow.
- They can see the text while reading and answering questions.
- Review pacing with them so they do not spend all of their energy on the first questions.



Good Luck!

Contact the Multilingual Learner Teacher on Special Assignment for any questions:
Clark.

Dina