

Checklist for Helping English Learners in the Classroom

Classroom Accommodations for English Learners	Check
Assign a buddy to help clarify assignments and provide support.	
Allow the use of the home language and electronic translation devices.	
Use slow and direct speech; explain idiomatic expressions.	
Build in repetition, clarification, and paraphrasing of key ideas.	
Use visuals in instructional materials and assignments; post visuals on walls instead of just showing them quickly on a screen.	
Use role-play, acting out, and experiments.	
Provide notes and reading materials ahead of time.	
Provide scaffolds to questions: Offer answer choices, yes/no questions, one-word answers, and answer prompts.	
Provide English learners extra think time before requiring them to answer questions: think-pair-share, think-write-pair-share, etc.	
Check for understanding through observation as opposed to asking “Do you understand?”	
Provide families with extra conferences and guidance on policies and services available.	

Testing Accommodations for English Learners	Check
Shorten tests by focusing only on essential content.	
Allow extra time.	
Allow use of dictionary, bilingual dictionary, and translation devices.	
Read through test for items requiring cultural background knowledge, and change if necessary.	
Provide a pretest to help review content and prepare English learners for the testing format.	
Provide retakes or multiple test opportunities.	
Allow extra revision of essays; if language is assessed, make sure the assessment is appropriate for the English learner’s language level.	
Allow use of script or notes during presentations.	
Reduce answer choices of test questions.	
Allow use of a glossary or notes during tests.	
Reduce the number of words on a page; provide more space.	
Allow paper-pencil tests as an alternative to online tests.	