

# The Features of Academic Language in the WIDA Standards

The Features of Academic Language operate within sociocultural contexts for language use.

Dimension	Performance Criteria	Features
<b>Discourse</b>	<b>Linguistic Complexity</b> <i>(Quantity and variety of oral and written text in communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of speech/written text</li> <li>• Structure of speech/written text</li> <li>• Density of speech/written text</li> <li>• Coherence and cohesion of ideas</li> <li>• Variety of sentence types to form organized text</li> </ul>
<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Language Forms and Conventions</b> <i>(Types, array, and use of language structures in communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types and variety of grammatical constructions</li> <li>• Mechanics of sentence types</li> <li>• Fluency of expression</li> <li>• Match language forms to purposes/perspectives</li> <li>• Formulaic and idiomatic expressions</li> </ul>
<b>Word/Phrase</b>	<b>Vocabulary Usage</b> <i>(Specificity of word or phrase choice in communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General, specific, and technical language</li> <li>• Multiple meanings of words and phrases</li> <li>• Nuances and shades of meaning</li> <li>• Collocations and idioms</li> </ul>

The sociocultural contexts for language use involve the interaction between the student and the language environment, encompassing the...

- Register
- Genre/Text type
- Topic
- Task/Situation
- Participants' identities and social roles