Texas State Intensive English (TSIE)
2016 Proficiency Level Descriptors

For information, please contact:

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### TSIE 2016 Proficiency Level Descriptors - Grammar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1500 Beginning</th>
<th>2500 High Beginning/Low Intermediate</th>
<th>3500 Intermediate</th>
<th>4500 High Intermediate/Advanced</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning TSIE students have little or no ability to understand or use the grammar structures of English used in academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Beginning/Low Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to understand basic grammatical structures in controlled situations as well as use basic grammatical English structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to understand moderately difficult grammatical structures in controlled situations as well as use moderately difficult grammatical English structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Intermediate/Advanced TSIE students have the ability to understand difficult grammatical structures in controlled situations as well as use difficult grammatical English structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These students:
- Struggle to understand simple English grammar structures
- May not have the ability to seek clarification when failing to comprehend
- Struggle to identify and distinguish individual words and phrases during social and instructional interactions

These students:
- Use very basic grammatical structures in controlled situations and to communicate orally and in writing
- Formulate and answer very basic questions
- Identify simple errors in word order, noun/verb use
- Understand the vocabulary necessary to recognize parts of speech
- Recognize and are beginning to use the vocabulary necessary to understand grammatical terminology

These students:
- Use moderately complex grammar structures in controlled situations and to communicate orally and in writing
- Ask and answer a variety of questions
- Use a selection of grammatical structures including simple and progressive forms, perfect tenses, gerunds and infinitives, passive, modal auxiliaries, adjective clauses and factual conditionals

These students:
- Use difficult grammar structures in controlled situations and to communicate orally and in writing
- Use grammar to discover the meaning of difficult structures
- Use a selection of grammatical structures including advanced adverb clauses and phrases, discourse markers, adjective clauses, adjective phrases, advanced noun clauses and unreal conditional clauses

#### 4550 Advanced

Advanced TSIE students have the ability to understand a variety of complex grammatical structures in controlled situations as well as use complex grammatical English structures used in routine academic and social settings.

These students are able to:
- Use difficult grammar structures in controlled settings and to communicate orally and in writing
- Use grammar to discover the meaning of difficult structures
- Use a selection of grammatical structures including advanced adverb clauses and phrases, discourse markers, adjective clauses, adjective phrases, advanced noun clauses and unreal conditional clauses with related forms
### TSIE 2016 Proficiency Level Descriptors – Oral Skills

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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning TSIE students</strong> have little or no ability to understand or understand or speak English used in academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Beginning/Low Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to understand simple English statements as well as communicate orally in fairly predictable situations.</td>
<td>Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to understand moderately difficult spoken English in controlled situations as well as use moderately difficult speech used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Intermediate/Advanced TSIE students have the ability to understand difficult spoken English in controlled situations as well as use difficult speech structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Struggle to understand simple spoken English</td>
<td>- Recognize simple requests and/or questions and respond appropriately</td>
<td>- Use increasingly varied vocabulary related to social situations</td>
<td>- Use vocabulary, including idioms, related to general interest topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>- May not have the ability to seek clarification when failing to comprehend</td>
<td>- Use vocabulary related to everyday activities</td>
<td>- Are able to listen for specific information from moderately difficult lecture content</td>
<td>- Are able to explain, support, and discuss general interest topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Struggle to identify and distinguish individual words and phrases during social and instructional interactions</td>
<td>- Recognize reductions in American speech</td>
<td>- Are able to present before a partner or groups</td>
<td>- Are able to prepare and present short speeches in front of an audience</td>
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<td>- Understand longer conversations</td>
<td>- Demonstrate increasing proficiency in pronunciation</td>
<td>- Are aware of pronunciation accuracy especially with respect to intonation and pitch</td>
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<td>- Recognize and are beginning to modify personal English pronunciation</td>
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<td>- Use discourse markers that indicate organization of thought</td>
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**4550 Advanced**

Advanced TSIE students have the ability to understand a variety of complex spoken English structures in controlled situations as well as use complex English speech used in routine academic and social settings.

These students are able to:
- Use vocabulary, including idioms, related to complex topics
- Explain, support, and discuss complex topics
- Listen for and take notes on main ideas and details from long, complex selections
- Demonstrate pronunciation accuracy especially with respect to sentence stress, phrasing, and linking
### TSIE 2016 Proficiency Level Descriptors - Reading

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning TSIE students have little or no ability to read and understand structures of English used in academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Beginning/Low Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to read basic English texts in controlled and understand high frequency English used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to read and understand moderately difficult English texts in controlled situations and understand moderately difficult English structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Intermediate/Advanced TSIE students have the ability to read and understand fairly long, complex selections in controlled situations and understand fairly difficult English structures used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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**These students:**
- Struggle to understand simple written English
- Read slowly (word by word)
- Have a very limited sense of English language structures
- Struggle to identify and distinguish individual words and phrases in highly routine or familiar contexts
- May have English vocabulary that consists predominantly of high frequency words or words associated with pictures

**These students:**
- Read and understand vocabulary on a limited number of academic topics
- Use simple context clues to guess meaning of simple words
- Read slowly and in short phrases and may re-read to clarify meaning
- Identify main ideas of paragraphs, clear patterns of organizations in texts and clear details and implications
- Answer exam questions in multiple choice format

**These students:**
- Read and understand vocabulary in selections of moderate length and difficulty
- Use a variety of context clues to guess meaning of words
- Read longer phrases, sentences, and whole selections with appropriate speed
- Identify main ideas of selections as well as organization patterns and details in longer texts
- Answer moderately difficult exam questions in multiple choice format

**These students:**
- Read and understand vocabulary in fairly long and complex selections
- Use more complex context clues to guess the meaning of difficult words
- Read and understand main ideas in multiple paragraphs and entire selections with appropriate speed
- Understand fairly complex details and implications
- Answer fairly complex exam questions in multiple choice format

### 4550 Advanced

Advanced TSIE students have the ability to read and understand long and complex selections in controlled situations and understand university-level reading material used in routine academic and social settings.

These students are able to:
- Read and understand long, complex reading content
- Use complex context clues to guess the meaning of difficult structures
- Read and understand main ideas, details and organization structure of long, complex academic reading selections at appropriate speed
- Analyze and respond to academic reading selections using a variety of strategies
- Answer complex exam questions in multiple choice format
## TSIE 2016 Proficiency Level Descriptors - Writing

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<td><strong>Beginning TSIE students</strong> lack the English vocabulary and grasp of English language structures necessary to produce written tasks used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Beginning/Low Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to write basic English texts in controlled and produce basic written tasks in English used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>Intermediate TSIE students have the ability to write moderately difficult English texts in controlled situations and produce moderately difficult written tasks in English used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
<td>High Intermediate/Advanced TSIE students have the ability to write longer English texts in controlled situations and produce fairly difficult written tasks in English used in routine academic and social settings.</td>
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**These students:**
- Demonstrate frequency of error in spelling, punctuation and capitalization
- May use the simple present tense in written sentences or phrases
- Are limited in ability to produce organized written content
- Write with limited basic vocabulary and very frequent errors in basic grammar
- May write in simple sentences

**These students:**
- Write simple and compound sentences in basic written contexts
- Write related sentences in response to a prompt
- Develop and organize a paragraph in an academically acceptable format
- Show connections among ideas using basic discourse markers
- Write informal summaries of narrative content
- Write more quickly with increased fluency under time pressure

**These students:**
- Write a variety of simple, compound and complex sentences
- Show connections among ideas using a variety of common discourse markers
- Develop and organize an essay in academically acceptable formats
- Summarize short academic content with extensive guidance
- Revise and edit written work with limited accuracy
- Write at increased speeds under time pressure

**These students:**
- Write clear, correct complex, complex/compound, compound and simple sentences
- Show connections using a variety of common and less usual discourse markers, conjunctions, prepositional phrases
- Develop/organize academic written assignments such as personal essays, short-answer exam questions, reports, reader-response papers, and fairly short research papers
- Understand and begin to use the mechanics of summarizing, paraphrasing, quoting, citing sources
- Write academic tasks at increased speeds under time pressure

### 4550 Advanced

Advanced TSIE students have the ability to write long and complex English texts in controlled situations and produce university-level written tasks used in routine academic and social settings.

These students are able to:
- Write a variety of clear correct sentences with a more mature, stylistically appropriate mixture of complex, complex/compound, compound and simple sentences
- Develop and organize academic written assignments including a fairly long research paper with limited control by the teacher
- Revise and edit work accurately
- Summarize, paraphrase, quote and city sources accurately while avoiding plagiarism.