

Hello everyone!

The topic for this week's class, Friday November 19, is: [Fluency in English](#)

What does "being fluent in English" mean to you?

What are your fluency goals?

What are your fluency challenges?

In today's class we will assess our goals and challenges, and share tips and strategies for improvement.



Activities:

- Small group -
- 1) Describe your fluency goals.
 - 2) Using the chart on the next page, rate yourself in one of the areas, and discuss with your group two things you can do to improve in that area.

Big group –review and wrap-up

What are your fluency challenges?

How would you rate yourself in each of these areas? Use the 1 – 10 scale (1 = worst, 10 = best)

AREA	SCORE	NEED TO IMPROVE
Grammar		
Comprehension		
Speaking Time		
Active Vocabulary		
Accent		
Confidence		

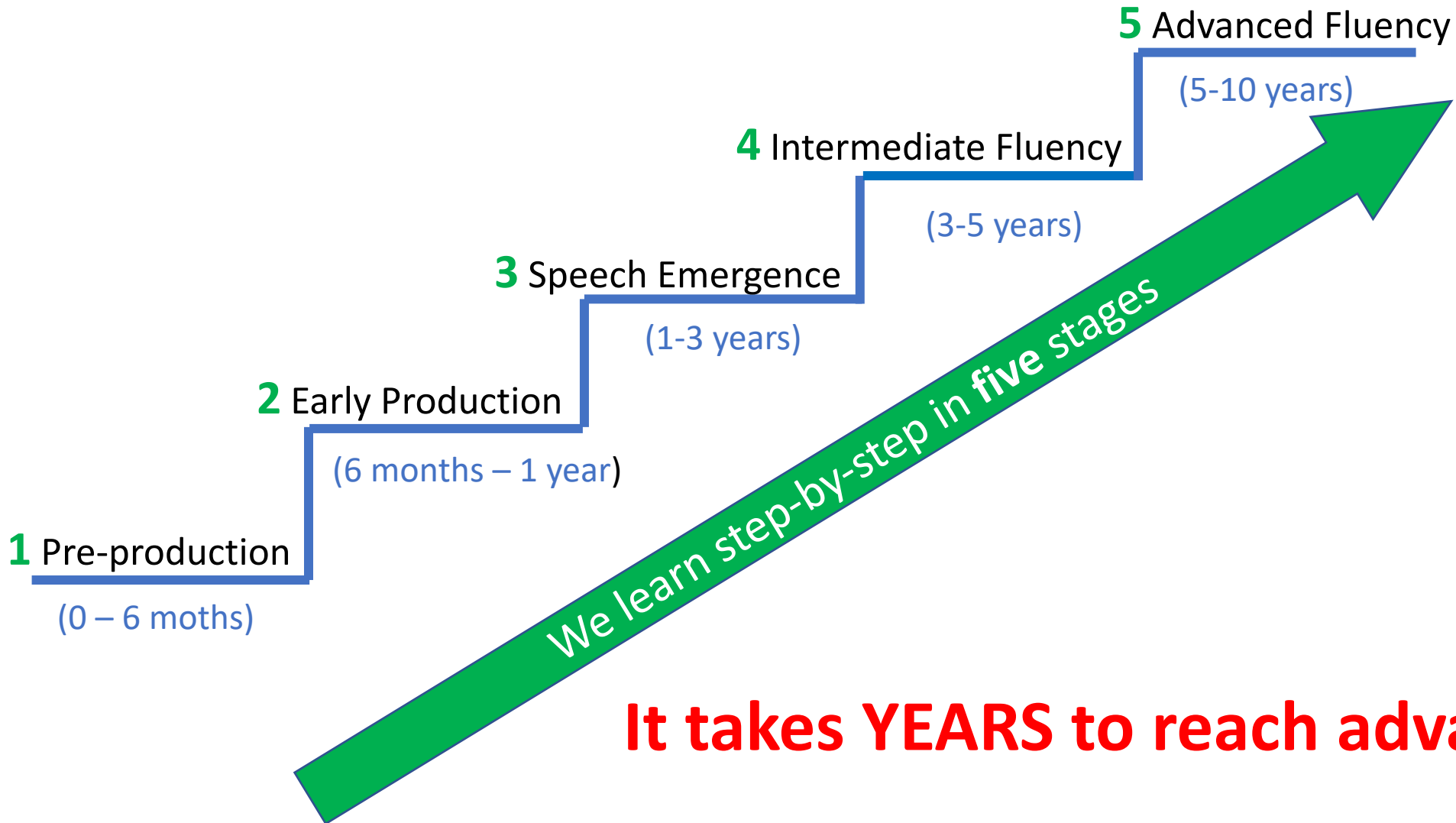
What are two things you need to do to improve in each area?

What are *your* fluency goals?

- I just like learning new languages.
- I want to have simple casual conversations in English with my neighbors.
- I want to help my grandchildren with school.
- I want to reach advanced fluency for my job.
- I married into an English speaking family and I want to communicate effectively with them.
- ?
- ?



The Five Stages of Second Language Acquisition



It takes YEARS to reach advanced fluency!

The Five Stages of Second Language Acquisition

Stage 1: Pre Production (0 -6 months)

- Has minimal comprehension
- Does not verbalize
- Nods "Yes" and "No"
- Draws and points

500 WORDS



Stage 2: Early Production (6 months to 1 year)

- Has limited comprehension
- Can make one or two word responses
- Might understand more that they can express
- Uses present tense verbs

1,000 WORDS



Good Morning.
Hello.



Stage 3: Speech Emergence (1 to 3 years)

- Has good comprehension
- Can produce simple sentences
- Makes grammar & pronunciation errors
- Frequently misunderstands idioms, jokes, etc.

3,000 WORDS



What is time?

How did you like movie?
Shall we go out for drink?

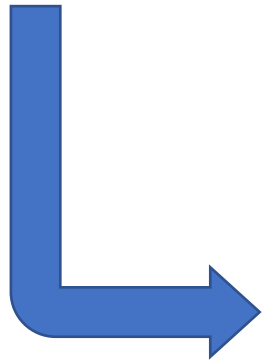


6,000 WORDS



Stage 4: Intermediate Fluency (3 to 5 years)

- Has excellent comprehension
- Form full sentences & make conversation
- Still makes grammar errors, but fewer



Stage 5: Advanced Fluency (5 to 10 years)

- Has near native level of speech
- Understands figurative speech
- Learns more and more words as time goes on

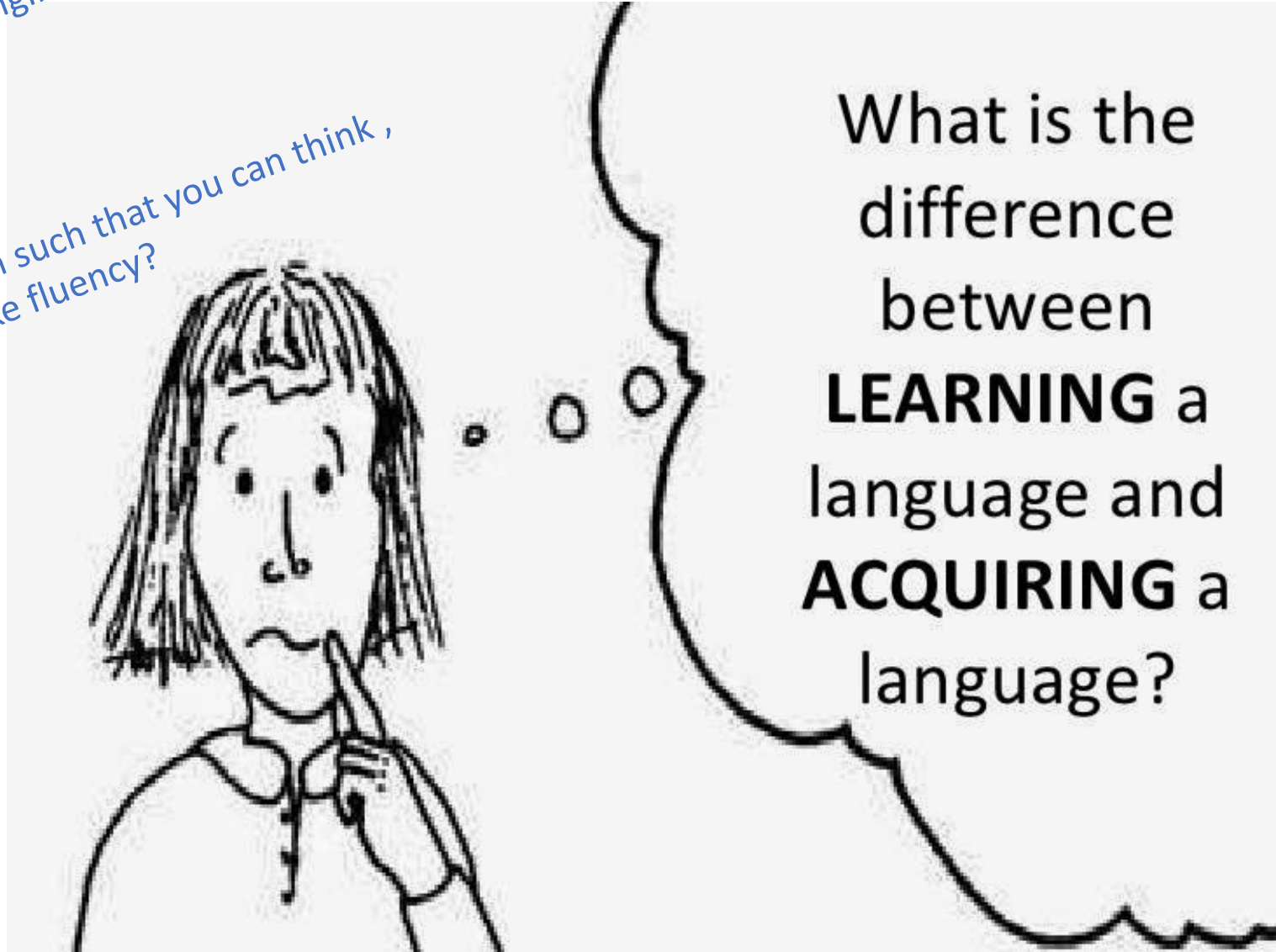


Walt Whitman is excellent,
But my favorite American poet is Emily Dickenson

Is your goal to “learn” just enough English
for casual conversation?

OR

Is your goal to “acquire” English such that you can think,
speak and write with native like fluency?



First Language vs. Second Language Acquisition



First Language Acquisition

How a child acquires their native language

- A subconscious process
- Does not require explicit (or formal) instructions or education
- Learners reach native fluency

Second Language Acquisition

Learning a new language after acquiring the native language

- An active and conscious process
- Requires explicit instructions and education
- Often difficult to reach native-like fluency

Vocabulary words:

Acquisition - completely learning or developing a particular skill.

Native language - the language that a person acquires in early childhood because it is spoken in the family and/or it is the language of the region where the child lives. Also known as a mother tongue or first language.

Subconscious - the part of the mind that is not currently in focal awareness.

Conscious - aware of and responding to one's surroundings; awake.

Native fluency - has complete fluency in the language, such that speech on all levels is fully accepted by educated, native speakers in all of its features.

Explicit - stated clearly and in detail, leaving no room for confusion or doubt.

Figurative - departing from a literal or usual use of words (for ex. "I'm starving!")

Literal - using words in their usual or most basic sense.