

# Second Language Acquisition



# First Language vs. Second Language Acquisition



## First Language Acquisition

How a child acquires their native language

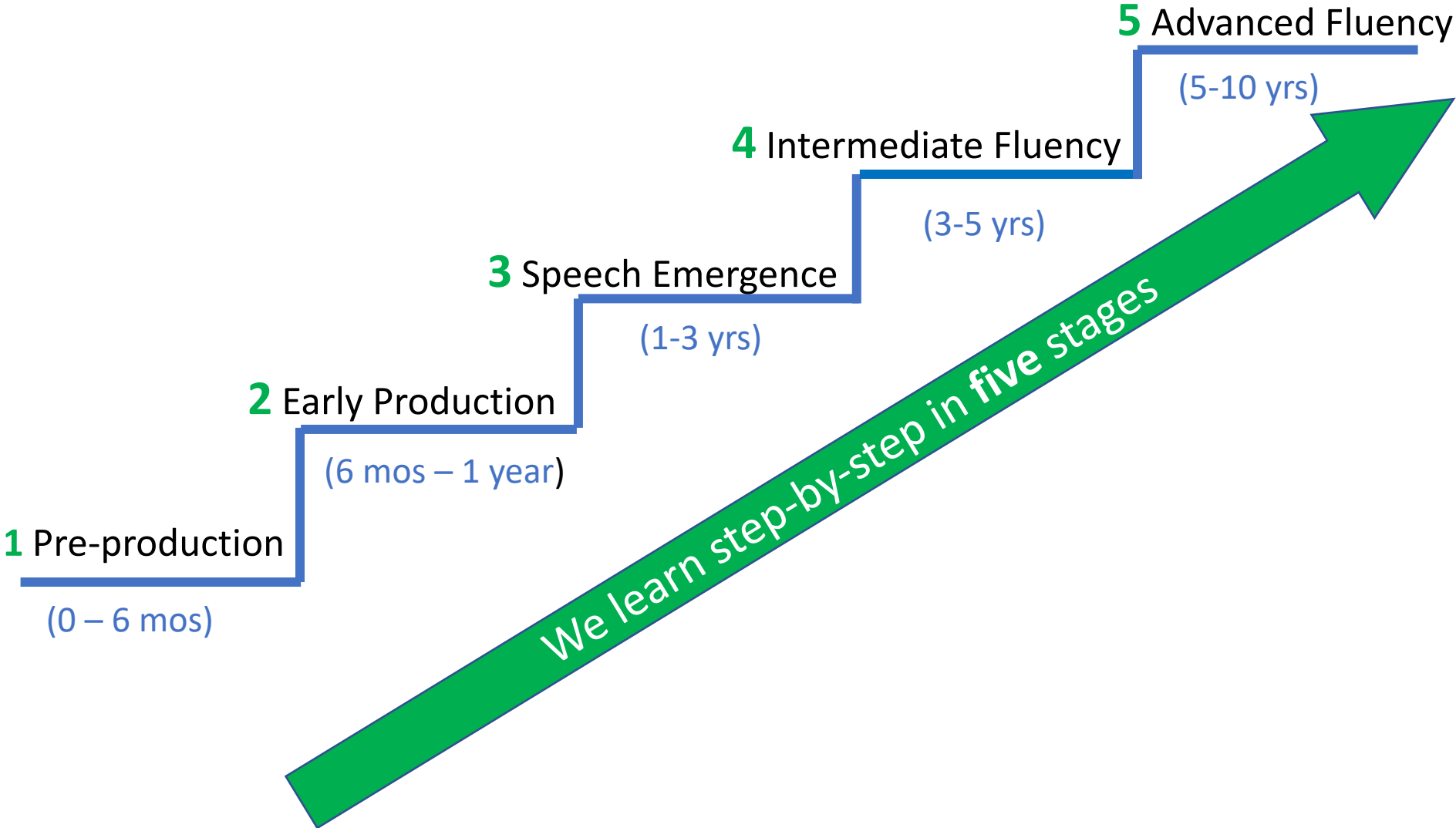
- A subconscious process
- Does not require explicit (or formal) instructions or education
- Learners reach native fluency

## 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

# 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?

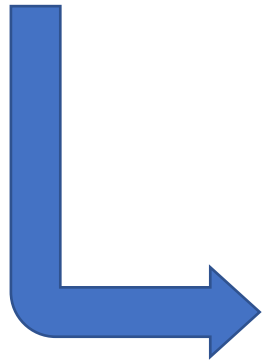


6,000 WORDS

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

### 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

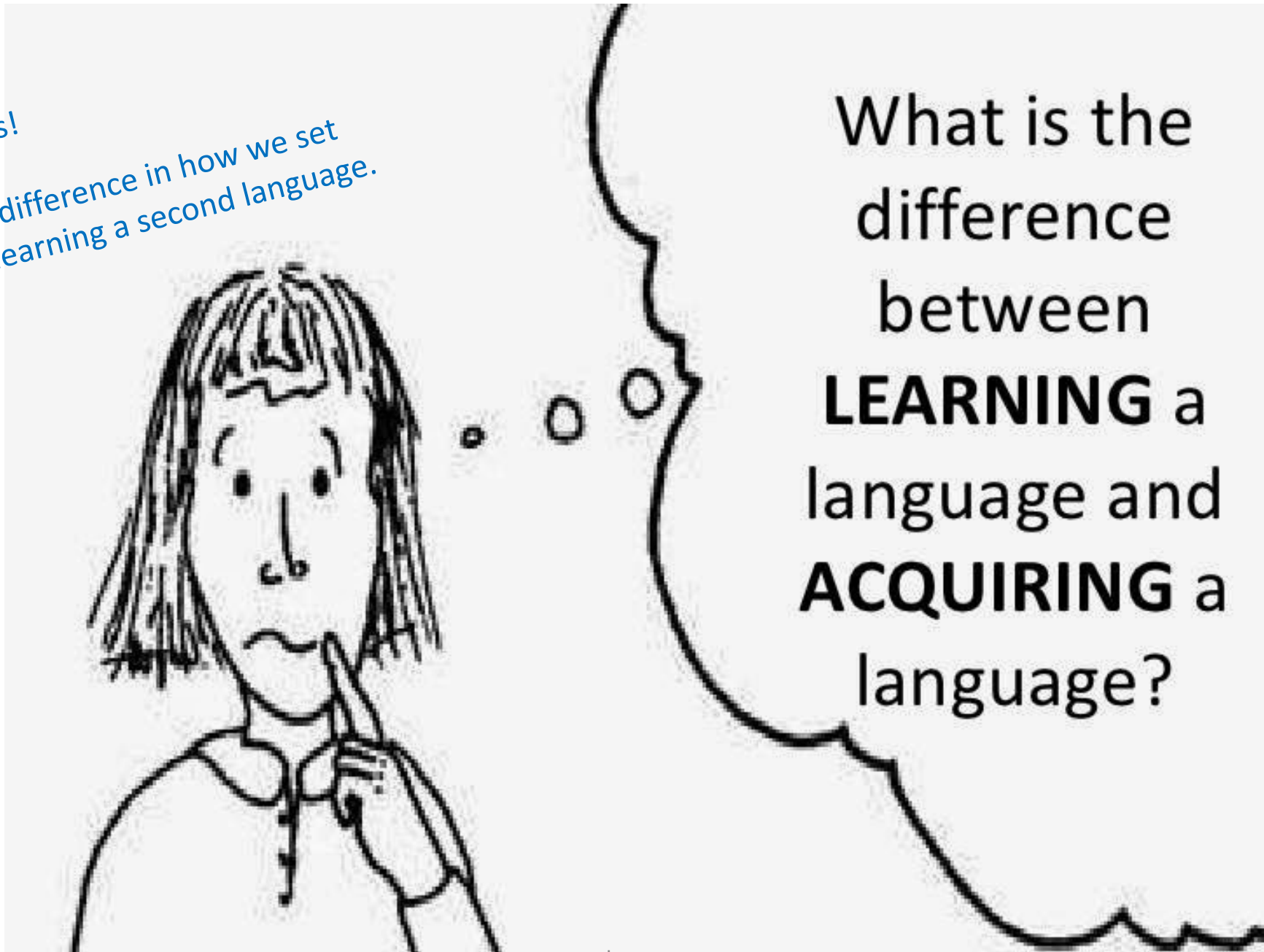


Walt Whitman is excellent,  
But my favorite American poet is Emily Dickenson



Let's discuss this!

It makes a big difference in how we set our goals for learning a second language.



# Myths about native English speakers

Most native speakers are not English experts:

- They make their share of mistakes.
- *They are not bothered* by making mistakes.





## Myths about native English speakers



Most native speakers do not make fun of you:

- They do not think you are stupid.
- They do not think they are better than you.
- They recognize that you speak another language. They see it as something admirable.

***Most native (American) English speakers do not speak a second language.***



## 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.