

Listening STEPS Sample Items

NRS Educational Functioning Level

Level 1

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#1	Vocabulary Understand high frequency words	1	1.4	A

Umbrella

A.



B.



C.



Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#2	Details Retell Key details	1	0.1	A

When is the man’s English class?

F: Are you taking English classes?

M: Yes. I signed up this afternoon.

F: Is your class in the evenings?

M: No. It’s in the morning before work.

When is the man’s English class?

A. in the morning

B. in the afternoon

C. in the evening

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#3	Dialogue Continue the conversation	2	4.1	C

(Ring!)

F: Sally's Diner. May I help you?

M: Hi, I'm looking for a job. Are you hiring?

F:

- A. Sorry, she's not here.
- B. No. I leave work soon.
- C. Yes. We need a cook.

NRS Educational Functioning Level

Level 2

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#4	Dialogue Continue the conversation	2	1.4	A

M: I'm moving to a new house.

F: That's great! How many bedrooms does it have?

M:

- A.** It has two.
- B.** It is small.
- C.** It is new.

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#5	Details Retell key details	1	2.6	C

What will Louise do on the cooking show today?

M: On Channel 4 today watch, “Cooking with Louise.” On today’s show, Louise cooks chicken with fresh vegetables from her garden.

What will Louise do on the cooking show today?

- A. watch Channel 4
- B. work in her garden
- C. cook chicken

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#6	Details Retell key details	1	4.8	B

When will Roy help the woman?

F: Roy, can you help me with the new printer?

M: Sure, when is a good time?

F: Maybe in an hour?

M: I have a meeting then. How about after lunch?

F: OK. Thanks.

When will Roy help the woman?

A. at the meeting

B. after lunch

C. in an hour

NRS Educational Functioning Level

Level 3

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#7	Details Retell key details	1	2.6	C

Where will the friends go on Saturday?

M: Let's go see a movie on Saturday.

F: The weather should be nice. What about the park instead?

M: Or, we could go to a baseball game.

F: Good idea! Let's do that.

Where will the friends go on Saturday?

A. a movie

B. a park

C. a baseball game

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#8	Main Idea Identify the main topic	1	3.5	C

What are the husband and wife talking about?

F: I need a new toothbrush.

M: Really? It's not that old.

F: I know, but dentists say to get new ones often.

M: Okay. I'll buy some more.

What are the husband and wife talking about?

A. brushing teeth more often

B. getting a new dentist

C. buying a new toothbrush

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#9	Dialogue Continue the conversation	2	0.1	A

M: Let's go out for dinner tonight.

F: Okay, but I have to finish my homework first.

M: When will you be done?

F:

- A. around 6:30
- B. tomorrow evening
- C. after dinner

NRS Educational Functioning Level

Level 4

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#10	Details Retell key details	1	2.2	A

What does the woman want?

M: Hi. Can I help you?

F: Yes, I'm going downtown. I need to buy a train ticket, please.

M: Okay. A train going downtown is arriving soon. You need to go to platform 2.

F: Great, thank you.

What does the woman want?

A. to buy a train ticket

B. to find the train station

C. to get directions downtown

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#11	Main Idea Identify the main topic	1	3.6	C

What is the advertisement mainly about?

(Announcer): Advanced Vision is your answer to eye care. Eyes often become dry, or irritated. Advanced Vision eye drops will make your eyes feel fresh again. Ask your doctor about Advanced Vision eye drops next time you have an exam.

What is the advertisement mainly about?

- A. eye doctors
- B. eye exams
- C. eye drops

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#12	Dialogue Continue the conversation	2	4.8	B

(Ring!)

F: Horizon Internet Services - technical support. How may I help you?

M: Hello. My Internet hasn't been working since the big rainstorm yesterday.

F: I can schedule an appointment for someone to come on Friday.

M: But that's three days from now! I work from home and I can't do anything without Internet service.

F:

A. Well, your connection should be fine during the storm.

B. I'm sorry, but Friday's the earliest we can send someone.

C. Unfortunately, technical support is already closed.

NRS Educational Functioning Level

Level 5

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#13	Details Retell key details	1	4.8	B

How will the man help his co-worker?

- F:** Can you help me with this report? It has to be finished by the end of the day, but I still haven't finished writing the last section.
- M:** Sure. How can I help?
- F:** While I finish the final part, I need someone to double-check my math. I also need someone to check for typos and spelling errors.
- M:** I'm not confident enough to help you with the math, but I'd be happy to look for the other errors.

How will the man help his co-worker?

- A.** He will make sure the math is correct.
- B.** He will check for misspelled words.
- C.** He will help her write the last section.

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#14	Main Idea Identify the main topic	1	2.8	B

Why is the coach speaking to the players?

F: Before we start practice, I need to talk to you. We are a football team, but remember, you are still in high school. This means that you must keep up your grades during football season. If any grade drops below a C, you will not be allowed to play in games. We need everybody to be successful. So, what this means is that it's important that you work hard on and off the field.

Why is the coach speaking to the players?

- A. to tell them how to get on the football team
- B. to remind them about the school's grade policy
- C. to ask them to try harder during football practice

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#15	Summary Summarize the conversation	1	4.8	C

What is the best summary of the conversation?

- M:** We keep getting complaints from customers about waiting on the phones for too long.
- F:** People have been sick. There aren't enough people to cover the phones.
- M:** Well, we need a solution for when people are sick.
- F:** I agree. Right now, we just operate with fewer people.
- M:** OK. Let's prioritize putting a plan in place.

What is the best summary of the conversation?

- A.** The staff should be retrained about answering phones.
- B.** The man and woman cannot handle customer complaints.
- C.** The company needs a better plan for backup phone coverage.

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#16	Dialogue Continue the conversation	2	4.8	C

M: Hello everyone. This meeting is about ways to improve our business.

F: I think we should give discounts to seniors over sixty-five.

M: Can we afford to do that?

F: Yes. Lower prices will only increase business.

M:

- A. But we need more business right now.
- B. Seniors probably won't want to pay more, though.
- C. Then we should consider student discounts, too.

NRS Educational Functioning Level

Level 6

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#17	Main Idea Identify the main topic	1	5.6	B

What is the main topic of the conversation?

M: Do you put plastic bags in the recycling?

F: No, I don't. Supposedly the bags jam the recycling plant's machinery.

M: I didn't know that. I had only heard that they were way more expensive to recycle.

F: That's true too. And because of that, many plants refuse to recycle them.

M: I guess I should just stick to recycling bottles.

F: I think that's best.

What is the main topic of the conversation?

A. The types of plastic that can be recycled.

B. Difficulties trying to recycle plastic bags.

C. Reasons plastic bags take a long time to recycle.

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#18	Summary Summarize the conversation	1	2.8	C

What is the best summary of the announcement?

F: Welcome parents to Back-to-School night. Before we get started, I'd like to make a quick announcement. The after-school program here at Grace Elementary School needs volunteers. No prior teaching experience is necessary; just a passion for literature and working with kids. As you already know, excellent reading skills can make a big difference in a student's life. So, I encourage you to stop by the office and fill out an application today! Thank you.

What is the best summary of the announcement?

- A.** The woman introduced new reading tutors to students.
- B.** The woman thanked volunteers for working at the school.
- C.** The woman asked parents to volunteer as reading tutors.

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Key
#19	Dialogue Continue the conversation	2	2.7	C

F: I didn't know that you spoke Portuguese.

M: I don't really. But I can understand quite a bit.

F: Is that because Spanish is your native language?

M: Yeah. Many native Spanish speakers can speak and understand some Portuguese, and the reverse is true too.

F:

A. I'm surprised you think Portuguese is easier than Spanish.

B. It must've been hard not understanding Spanish.

C. I didn't realize the languages were so much alike.