

Measuring & Celebrating Success in ESL



What are you measuring?	How are you measuring it?	How are you celebrating?
Academic English Skills (writing, reading, critical thinking)	• Formal written tests • Reading logs or written reflections • Summative assessments	• Display writing samples Academic progress awards • Show students pre- and post-tests • Sticker, smily face, or "congrats" for improvement or high test score
Fluency	• Timed speaking tasks (e.g., describe a picture in 1 minute) • Retelling stories with fewer pauses	• "Fluency Champion" certificates • Class applause or shout-outs
Pronunciation & Intelligibility	• Peer/teacher feedback • Shadowing or repeat-after-me exercises • Audio recordings over time	• Pronunciation badges • Playback progress day • Sticker rewards
Vocabulary Use	• Count target words in conversation or writing • Vocabulary journals or word use checklists	• "Word Wizard" awards • Vocabulary wall • Student-curated vocab list which shows progresss • Certificates
Grammar Accuracy	• Grammar targets in spoken/written work • Teacher checklists or rubrics	• "Grammar Growth" shout-outs • Visual progress charts • Certificate or personal review of rubric with student
Confidence in Speaking	• Self-assessments using "I can..." statements • Increased class participation	• "Brave Speaker" ribbons • Positive notes from teacher or classmates • "Now I can..." personal student celebration report

What are you measuring?	How are you measuring it?	How are you celebrating?
Spoken English (General)	• Oral tests (subjective or computer-based) • Rubric-based observation • Audio comparisons over time	• Speaking milestone certificates • Personalized praise "I noticed that you are improving in ..." • Celebration posters
Real-Life Communication	• Role-plays or simulations (e.g., job interview, asking for help) • Student report of real-life use ("I went to a Parent-Teacher conference")	• "Real-World English Star" awards • Story-sharing time Wall of Success • "Testimony" sharing time of real-life success
Listening & Responding	• Dialogue practice • Question-answer exchanges • Listening checks	• "Active Listener" badge • ESL games with award for winners • Student personal assessment
Presentation Skills	• Mini speeches or storytelling • Peer feedback rubrics or class votes	• Presentation Day Awards for "Most Confident," "Most Clear," "Great Visuals," "Most Improved," etc.
Job Success / Economic Improvement	• Student testimony: "I got a job!" • Goal planning worksheet tracking milestones • Completion of job training program with test	• "Workforce Ready" badge • Celebration Wall • Success stories shared in class • Goal-Planning Worksheet regularly reviewed
Progress Over Time	• Compare beginning and end recordings or assignments • Teacher notes or portfolio	• "Look how far we've come" day Portfolio party or slideshow
Participation and Risk-Taking	• Teacher observations • Student volunteering and trying new language	• "Risk-Taker of the Week" award • Participation punch cards • High-fives or extra praise "well done!"
Life Celebrations or "Wins"	• Student sharing/ pair-square-share • EXAMPLES: new house, new baby, citizenship, job interview, etc. • Teacher observations or informal conversation	• Encouraging words or praise • Success Wall or Celebration Wall • Whole class celebration or baby shower or party