

First Language (L1) Acquisition	
Factor	Questions to Address
Age: When does language acquisition begin and how does it progress?	It begins at birth and progresses slowly as a child develops or ages. What starts out as “language” through crying grows into babbling, word formation, sentence formation, and recognizing “environmental print” over the course of the first two years of a child’s life.
Sound System: How do young children learn the L1 sound system and the rules of the native language?	This learning process in a L1 is mostly unconscious. A child begins to be able to distinguish sounds in their native language very early in life. They hear the sounds and understand them long before they can produce them on their own.
Learning Environment: Where does L1 take place and under what conditions and circumstances does early language learning occur?	The main learning environment for L1 takes place in the home or community of a child. Also, this environment is on that the L1 is the primary or only language spoken. By listening and watching adults in their home, children pick up on words and meanings. Early language learning happens the most when adults talk and read to children on a regular basis. The more often a child hears a word or sound the quicker they will be able to remember it and apply meaning to it.
Second Language (L2) Acquisition	
Factor	Questions to Address
Age: When does second language acquisition begin and how does it progress?	The best time for SLA to begin is when a child is between the ages of 5-9. At this time their L1 has already had a foundation and they are still within the critical learning period. However, once a student is introduced to a new language at any age they begin the stages of SLA: pre-production, early production, speech emergency, intermediate fluency, and advanced fluency. It takes 4-10 years for a student to reach advanced fluency.
Sound System: How do second language learners	They learn these sounds and rules through social interactions. This gives them the opportunity to

learn the sound system and rules of the second language?	hear and see the L2. The input or samples of L2 that the learner is exposed to directly effects their sounds system and knowledge of rules. Also, second language learners pull from what they know of their native language to help them decipher the L2.
Learning Environment: Where does early L2 language acquisition take place and under what type of conditions?	L2 language acquisition takes place in an environment where the learner's primary language is not often spoken. Typically the student is fully immersed and surrounded by the L2.
Related Factors: What is interlanguage and fossilization and how do these things impact SLA?	Interlanguage is when students take elements from their L1 and apply them to their L2 to produce a language all their own. Fossilization is when there is little or no change in a student's interlanguage. These factors seem cause students to reach a plateau in their SLA.