

Year 10 Second Language Learners

Oral — Average

Commentary

Learner Background and Program Context

This student is a second language learner who was born in Cambodia and arrived in Australia at the age of 13. Both his parents were born in Cambodia and his first language before schooling was Khmer. He has studied Korean for 2 years since he was in Year 9. His current school offers a Korean program only for non-background students and has seven 50-minute lessons per fortnight. The student has not studied any languages other than Korean or English.

Features of Achievement in this Sample

The student comprehends most of the assessor's questions and gives answers to some of them, although difficulties producing responses in Korean are evident from his frequent long pauses and backchannels such as 'I don't know' or repeating some words from the question in a soft voice. Although answers tend to be fragmentary and fade away at the end, the student attempts to respond to some of the assessor's prompts and/or to signal his comprehension by answering in English. He lists the members of his family following the prompt of the assessor. Although it is evident he knows the plain words '아버지' and '어머니', which are given as the prompt by the assessor, he changes them to '아빠' and '엄마'. Although he gives his age accurately with the correct classifier (in the exchanges preceding the sample provided), he has not learnt how to express numbers beyond his own age, and gives the ages of his older brother and sister in English. He uses the humble form of the first person singular pronoun '저', a topic particle '-는', and a subject particle '-가' accurately and connects nouns using '그리고' when he lists his family members using Korean. He lists English words for his hobbies, as he does not know the Korean equivalents, and connects them with '그리고'. His answer is spontaneous and confident when the assessor's prompts directly help to retrieve items, as shown in his answer '없어요' and '아빠, 엄마...'