

## CAEL Level Descriptions

### Course Levels

Students will be tested in week one and placed in one of eight levels. These are described below:

#### **Level One                    Elementary English 1**

This is an early Elementary level. By the end of this level the student will be able to communicate in English, conveying simple messages, in limited contexts. The student will be able to recognise and use a limited range of vocabulary and language structures with reliance on the teacher.

#### **Level Two                    Elementary English 2**

This is an Elementary level. By the end of this level the student will be able to understand and use English in a limited range of situations. The student will be able to recognise and use set phrases and simple vocabulary in everyday situations. The student will be able to read simple texts and write simple messages.

#### **Level Three                Pre-Intermediate English**

This is an early Intermediate level. By the end of this level the student will be able to use language related to familiar topics within a restricted range of situations. The student will have a limited command of the English language and should be beginning to develop independence.

#### **Level Four                Intermediate English (Academic English)**

This is an Intermediate level. By the end of this level the student will have practised basic grammatical structures of the English language and have a good working knowledge of the most common lexical items in English. The student will have partial command of the language, and should cope with overall meaning in many situations. There will still be errors and some problems in understanding and expression. The student should be able to cope with simple communication in their field of interest or work but may not yet be able to understand complex language.

#### **Level Five                Upper Intermediate English 1 (Academic English)**

By the end of this level the student will be starting to use, and understand, complex language in familiar situations, although language use and understanding will still be marked by inaccuracy and misunderstanding. The student should cope with overall meaning in most social situations and should be able to cope reasonably well in their own field of interest or work. At this level the student should have a level of English which will enable them to meet standards equivalent to the NZ residence language requirements and equivalent to the University of Waikato Foundation Studies entry requirements. The student is likely to need another 6 months full-time English to reach the minimum requirement to enter an undergraduate programme in a New Zealand university.

**Level Six                      Upper Intermediate English 2 (Academic English)**

By the end of this level the student should have an effective command of a range of lexical and grammatical patterns and communication strategies. The student will be able to use, and understand, complex language in familiar situations, although from time to time there will be some inaccuracy and misunderstanding. The student will cope with overall meaning in most social situations and should be able to cope reasonably well in their own field of interest or work.

**Level Seven                      Advanced English 1 (Academic English)**

By the end of this level the student should have effective command of the English language despite some inaccuracies and should be able to use and understand fairly complex language. The student will have studied English language skills appropriate for university contexts. The student should have a level of English which will enable them to attain the minimum level for entry to most undergraduate degree programmes. The student may need another 3-6 months of full-time English language study to attain the minimum level required to enter most post-graduate degree programmes in New Zealand universities.

**Level Eight                      Advanced English 2 (Academic English)**

By the end of this level the student should have effective command of the English language. The student should have a level of English which will enable them to meet the minimum level to enter undergraduate programmes for most New Zealand universities. In general they will be ready to enter post-graduate programmes. There are still some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in their use of English but these do not affect communication.