

Brown’s Stages	
Pre-linguistic Stage*	Caregivers attribute meaning to actions Turn taking Attention seeking, greeting, protesting, directing attention to object/event, requesting action/object/social routine *Communicative behaviors could be tugging, pointing, giving, looking, waving, pushing, crying, smiling, etc.
Pre-Stage 1 Single words	Existence, non-existence, recurrence, negation, rejection, location, notice /draw attention, social interaction
Stage 1	Initiates topics; Notice/draw attention, nomination/agent, cessation, negation, questions/request information, comment nomination/ action, attribution, location, possession, greet/take leave, request, protest, answer a question, acknowledge
Stage 2	Use language to talk about the present, talk about experiences, pretend play, show frustration, express ideas and feelings, joke/tease
Stage 3	Use language to talk about the past and future, possession, to describe, justify, defend, negotiate, argue, use conditional language
Stage 4	Further use language for the above, creating imaginary roles
Stage 5	Use language to compare

Communicative Functions
Gain attention
Exclaim
Name/Label
Request
Comment
Describe
Ask a question/Gain information
Refuse/protest/rejecting
Suggest
Joke/Tease
Persuade, Negotiate
Tell a story/Recount an experience
Discourse

Narrative Development	
Stage 1	<i>Heaps</i> Relate a group of unrelated ideas with topic switches frequently.
Stage 2	<i>Sequences</i> Begins to tell a story with arbitrary links between elements such as characters, setting or topic.
Stage 3	<i>Primitive Narratives</i> Stories contain characters, setting, and a topic, with events following a central theme. Cause and effect relationships emerge in these stories.
Stage 4	<i>Chains</i> Stories contain all relevant elements such as characters, setting, and a topic. Stories may be told in logical order but an adult may have to have additional knowledge to understand correctly.
Stage 5	<i>True Narrative</i> Stories contain a true plot, including a problem which is resolved. It follows a logical sequence of events and includes character development by connecting the character to the plot.

Please refer to [aaclanguagelab.com](https://www.aaclanguagelab.com) for references used in the creation of these charts.