

Brown’s Sentence Forms					
	Declarative	Negative	Interrogative	Embedding	Conjoining
Early Stage 1	Action + agent / agent + action Action + object	Single word: <i>No, all gone, gone; negative + x</i>	<i>Yes/no</i> asked with rising intonation on a single word; <i>what, where</i>	-----	Serial naming without <i>and</i>
Late Stage 1	Subject + Verb + Object appears	<i>No</i> and <i>not</i> used interchangeably	<i>That + x; what + noun phrase (doing)?</i>	Prepositions <i>in, on</i> appear	<i>And</i> appears
Stage 1 = 1.0-2.0 MLUm*					
Early Stage 2	Subject + copula+ complement appears	-----	<i>Where + noun phrase + (going)?</i>	-----	-----
Late Stage 2	Basic subject + verb + object used by most children	<i>No, not, don’t, can’t</i> used interchangeably	<i>What</i> or <i>where</i> subject + predicate, earliest inversion appears with copula in <i>what/where + copula + subject</i>	<i>Gonna, wanna, gotta, etc.</i> appear	-----
Stage 2 = 2.0-2.5 MLUm					
Early Stage 3	Subject + auxiliary + verb+ + object appears; auxiliary verb forms <i>can, do, have, will</i> and <i>be</i> appear	Placed between subject and predicate	-----	-----	<i>But, so, or, if</i> appear
Late Stage 3	Auxiliary verb appears with copula in subject + auxiliary + copula + X	<i>Won’t</i> appears	Auxiliary verbs <i>do, can, and will</i> begin to appear in questions; inversion of subject and auxiliary verb appears in <i>yes/no</i> questions	-----	-----
Stage 3 = MLUm 2.5-3.0					
Early Stage 4	-----	Negative appears with auxiliary verbs (subject + auxiliary + negative + verb)	Inversion of auxiliary verb and subject in <i>wh</i> -questions	Object noun phrase complements appear with verbs such as <i>think, guess, show</i> ; embedded <i>wh</i> -questions	Clausal conjoining with <i>and</i> appears (most children cannot produce this form until late stage 5); <i>because</i> appears
Late Stage 4	Double auxiliary verbs appear in subject+ auxiliary + auxiliary + verb + x	Adds <i>isn’t, aren’t, doesn’t, didn’t</i>	Inversion of copula and subject in <i>yes/cono</i> questions; adds <i>when</i> and	Infinitive phrases appear at the end of sentences	-----
Stage 4 = MLUm 3.0-3.75					
Stage 5	Indirect object appears in subject + auxiliary + verb + indirect object + object	Adds <i>wasn’t, wouldn’t, couldn’t, shouldn’t</i> ; negative appears with copula in subject + copula + negative	Adds modals; stabilizes inverted auxiliary; some adultlike tag questions appear	Relative clauses appear in object position; multiple embedding appear by late stage 5; infinitive phrases with same subject as the main verb	Clausal conjoining with <i>if</i> appears; three-clause declaratives appear
Stage 5 = MLUm 3.75-4.5					
Post Stage 5	-----	Adds infinitive forms; <i>nobody, no one, none, and nothing</i> ; has difficulty with double negatives	Questions other than one-word <i>why</i> questions appear; negative interrogative beyond age 5	Gerunds appear; relative clauses attached to the subject; embedding and conjoining appear within same sentence above an MLU of 5.0	Clausal conjoining with <i>because</i> appears with <i>when, but, and so</i> beyond an MLU of 5.0; embedding and conjoining appear within the same sentence above an MLU of 5.0
Stage 5 = MLUm 4.5+					

*Mean Length of Utterance in Morphemes

Please refer to aaclanguagelab.com for references used in the creation of these charts.