TELPAS Alternate Glossary

This glossary is intended to explain how terms are used for the TELPAS Alternate assessment.

Academic: Academic language is related to ideas or language used on tests and assignments during instruction in reading, writing, science, and social studies. Examples include, but are not limited to, analyze, compare, and conclude.

Attend to: "Attend to" refers to a way by which the student shows active engagement with a task and presenter. Examples include, but are not limited to, eye gaze, head turn, vocalization, gestures, and changes in facial expression.

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC): AAC is a means other than traditional communication by which a student can share a message, spoken or written, with others. Examples include, but are not limited to, gestures, facial expressions, picture cards, picture boards, sign language, speech-generating devices, alternative pencils, print flip charts, switch-based output devices, and real objects.

Cloze: A cloze activity is a reading comprehension activity in which words are omitted from text and students are required to fill in the blanks.

Combined words: These are two or more words, often from different parts of speech, that are meaningfully joined together (e.g., new red book, big fast truck).

Consistently: "Consistently" means that the student almost always acts, behaves, or responds in the same way.

Content-based: "Content-based" can refer to instruction, vocabulary, discussion, or other academic tasks related to the content areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Environmental print: This is the print that students frequently encounter in everyday life, both inside and outside of the classroom. Examples include the print on signs, labels, logos, street signs, and food wrappers.

Gist: The gist is the general topic or basic idea of something said or written that doesn't include all of the words, supporting ideas, or details.

High-frequency/high-need vocabulary: This vocabulary includes words that ELs who know very little English encounter very frequently and can be made to understand through content, gestures, and pictures. These words (e.g., book, cafeteria, teacher) are used regularly for instructional or personal needs.

Media presentation: A media presentation is a presentation that includes more than one medium, such as text, graphic, audio, visual, etc.

Onset and rime: The "onset" is the initial phonological unit of any word (e.g. "c" in cat), and the "rime" refers to the string of letters that follow, usually a vowel and final consonants (e.g., "a" and "t" in cat).

Original message: An original message is a message that includes a combination of words put together by a student in a unique way. It may be prompted by a picture prompt.

Predictable text: Predictable text repeats the same sentence pattern multiple times with minor (one or two) changes in each sentence. This small change is often represented by a picture. Each predictable text has a different pattern for the student to read.

Prompting: Prompting is action intended to initiate or continue a task that the student is being requested to complete. Prompting is NOT leading, which is an action intended to get the student to respond in a specific way or with a specific answer.

Sight words: These are words that a reader automatically recognizes without having to use picture clues or sound them out. The sight words are both common, frequently used words, and foundational words that a student can use to build vocabulary.

Word families: Word families are groups of words that have a common feature or pattern; these words (e.g., brain, chain, gain, pain) have some of the same combinations of letters in them and a similar sound.