

Past Schooling and Background Information for Non-Native Speakers of English

Using the Past Schooling and Background Information Form

Teachers can gather information on pages 1-2 from orientation paperwork or with the help of a translator, depending on the student's language proficiency. Teachers should not ask students for the information on page 3.

1.	Where were you born?	
	city or town	country
2.	How old were you when you came to the US?	
3.	What was the first language you spoke as a child?	
	3a. Do you still speak this language? $\ \square$ yes $\ \square$ no	
4.	Did you attend school in (native country)? yes no	
	4a. If yes, how many years?	
	4b. If yes, In what language were you taught?	
5.	What is the highest school grade you completed?	
6.	Did you attend any other schools (in native country or another)? yes no	
7.	Can you read (native language)? ☐ yes ☐ no	
8.	Can you write (native language)? ☐ yes ☐ no	
9.	Can you read and write English? ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ a little	
	9a. How old were you when you learned to read and write English?	
	9b. Where did you learn to read and write English? (home, school)?	
10.	How many schools did you attend as a child?	
11.	Did you ever repeat a grade? yes no	
	11a. If ves. which grade(s)?	

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12.	2. Do you remember ever having trouble with reading as a child?	yes no	
	12a. If yes, in which grade did you first have trouble?		
	\Box 1 st grade \Box 2 nd or 3 rd grade \Box 4 th or 5 th grade \Box 6 th ,7	th, or 8 th grade	☐ high school
13.	3. When you were a child did you ever participate in any of the following	ng programs?	yes no
	13a. If you did, please describe when and where. individual tuto	ring	
	at home		
	in school		
	special classes		
14.	4. What made you decide to take adult education classes?		
15.	5. What do you plan to do after you complete your adult education cla	sses?	
16.	6. About how many hours a week do you read for pleasure (in English) ☐ less than 1 hour ☐ 1 to 3 hours ☐ 4 to 6 hours	? □ more than	6 hours
17.	7. About how many hours a week do you read for pleasure in (native la less than 1 hour 1 to 3 hours 4 to 6 hours	inguage)? more than	6 hours
18.	3. What do you find hard about reading? Which of the following challe read?	nges seem to a _l	oply to you when you
	Reading Challenge	English	Native language
	I can't read or pronounce the long, hard words.		
	I can't understand most of the hard words.		
	Sometimes I don't understand what I read.		
	I forget a lot of what I read right afterwards.		
	I forget a lot of what I read a few days later.		
	I read very slowly.		
	Spelling problems.		
	Other problems?		

Additional background information

To be completed by teacher

On Speaking & Cultural Terms, Sections III & IV is a resource for this information.

1.	Is the student an immigrant or refugee? yes no
	If refugee, what do you know about the student's life/experiences prior to resettlement?
2.	How can the student's native language can be characterized?
	☐ Roman alphabet (French, German, Spanish)
	☐ Non-Roman alphabet (Arabic, Korean, Russian, Thai) Non-alphabet (Chinese)
	Preliterate – no written form or in the process of developing a written form
	(American indigenous, African, Australian and Pacific languages)
3.	What are the differences and similarities in appearance between the student's native language and English? (Similar alphabet, written on/above/below the line, written left-to-right or right-to-left, includes letters or symbols, etc.)
4.	What are the differences in syntax and grammar of the student's native language?
5.	What are the difficult sounds in English for the student's native language?
6.	What is unique about the student's culture? (gestures, education, family, personal space/courtesies etc.)