



TABLE 11.2 Components of Language

Component	Definition	Receptive level	Expressive level
Phonology	The sounds characteristic of a language, the rules governing their distribution and sequencing, and the stress and intonation patterns that accompany sounds	Discrimination of speech sounds	Articulation of speech sounds
Morphology	The rules governing how words are formed from the basic element of meaning	Understanding of the grammatical structure of words	Use of grammar in words
Syntax	Rules for how to string words together to form phrases and sentences—the relationships among the elements of a sentence	Understanding of phrases and sentences	Use of grammar in phrases and sentences
Semantics	The linguistic realization of what the speaker knows about the world—the meanings of words and sentences	Understanding of word meanings and word relationships	Use of word meanings and word relationships
Pragmatics	The social effectiveness of language in achieving desired functions—rules related to the use of language in social contexts	Understanding of social and contextual cues	Use of language to affect others

SOURCE: Adapted from L. McCormick, "Introduction to Language Acquisition," in L. McCormick, D. Loeb, and R. Schiefelbusch (Eds.), *Supporting Children with Communication Difficulties in Inclusive Settings*, 2nd ed. (Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon, 2003).