

# What is oral language?

Oral language refers to the knowledge and skills that we use to produce and understand spoken language. Language knowledge and skills also serve as the foundation for learning to read and write. Oral language is composed of five main components:

- **Phonology** (understanding and use of the speech sounds in words)
- **Morphology** (understanding and use of meaningful word parts, e.g., pre, un, ion)
- **Vocabulary or Semantics** (understanding and use of the meaning of words)
- **Syntax** (understanding and use of the grammatical aspects of language)
- **Pragmatics** (understanding and use of language in various contexts)

Although children acquire most aspects of oral language during early childhood, their language learning lasts well into adolescence and adulthood. Children continue to add to their vocabulary and to their repertoire of language usage in different contexts. Much of this latter language learning is influenced by children's academic and literacy experiences.

Source: International Dyslexia Association

See full document here:

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