

# First and second language acquisition

## Differences between L1 and L2 acquisition

Ellis 1994 (based on Bley-Vroman 1988)

<b>Feature</b>	<b>L1 acquisition</b>	<b>L2 (foreign language) acquisition</b>
<b>1. Overall success</b>	children normally achieve perfect L1 mastery	adult L2 learners are unlikely to achieve perfect L2 mastery
<b>2. General failure</b>	success guaranteed	complete success rare
<b>3. Variation</b>	little variation in degree of success or route	L2 learners vary in overall success and route
<b>4. Goals</b>	target language competence	L2 learners may be content with less than target language competence or more concerned with fluency than accuracy
<b>5. Fossilisation</b>	unknown	common, plus backsliding (i.e.

		return to earlier stages of development
<b>6. Intuitions</b>	children develop clear intuitions about correctness	L2 learners are often unable to form clear grammaticality judgments
<b>7. Instruction</b>	not needed	helpful or necessary
<b>8. Negative evidence</b>	correction not found and not necessary	correction generally helpful or necessary
<b>9. Affective factors</b>	not involved	play a major role determining proficiency