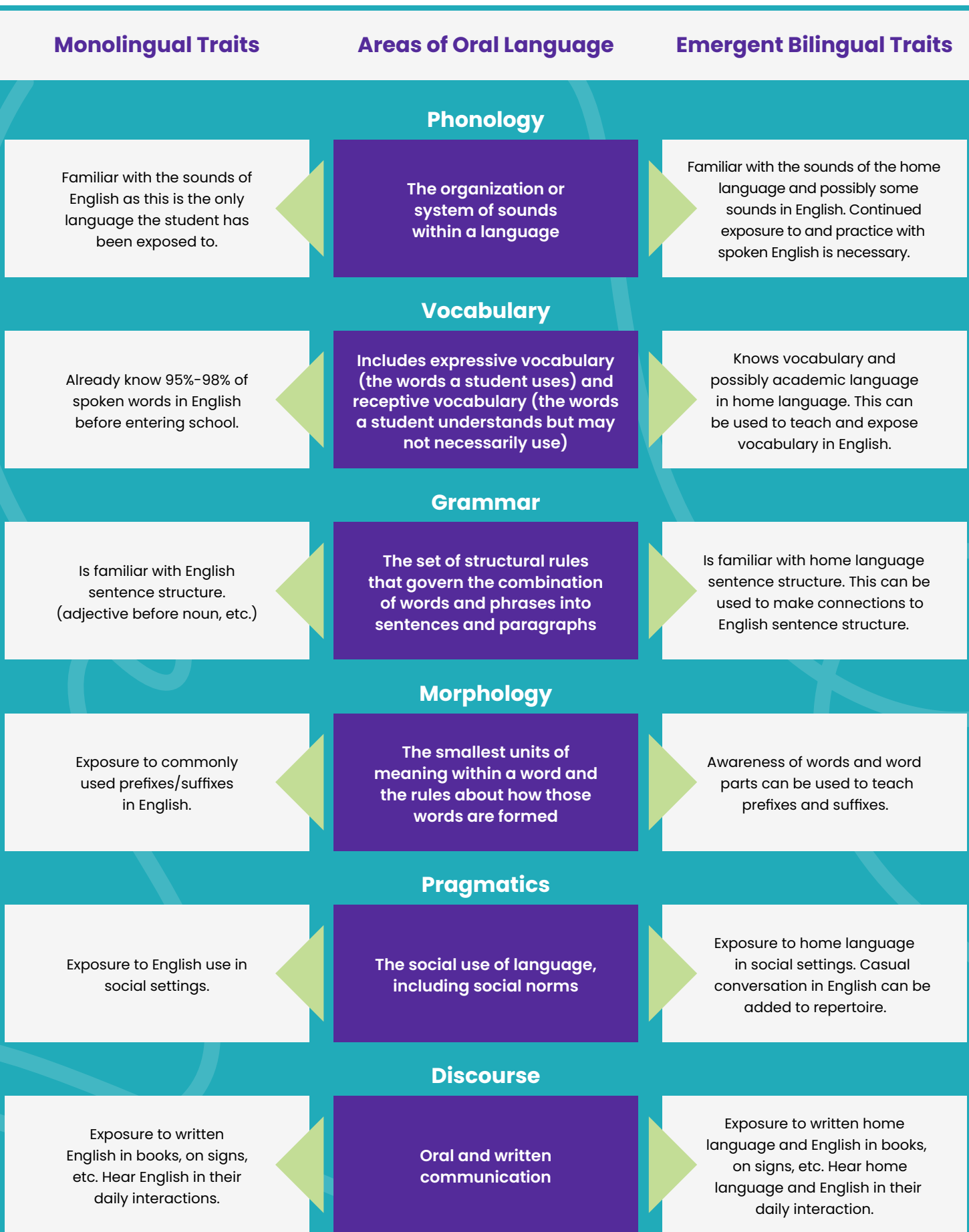# The Background Breakdown:
The Difference in Oral Language for Monolinguals and Emergent Bilinguals

Oral Language

Having a solid foundation in oral language in English is imperative to learning to read in English. That's why oral language is key to developing strong literacy skills for all students and is even more critical for Emergent Bilinguals.

Oral language is comprised of six distinct areas, but instruction should take a different approach if a student's first language is not English. Use this chart to compare the background knowledge of Emergent Bilingual students to their monolingual peers as they develop their oral language.

Monolingual Traits	Areas of Oral Language	Emergent Bilingual Traits
	Phonology	
Familiar with the sounds of English as this is the only language the student has been exposed to.	**The organization or system of sounds within a language**	Familiar with the sounds of the home language and possibly some sounds in English. Continued exposure to and practice with spoken English is necessary.
	Vocabulary	
Already know 95%-98% of spoken words in English before entering school.	**Includes expressive vocabulary (the words a student uses) and receptive vocabulary (the words a student understands but may not necessarily use)**	Knows vocabulary and possibly academic language in home language. This can be used to teach and expose vocabulary in English.
	Grammar	
Is familiar with English sentence structure. (adjective before noun, etc.)	**The set of structural rules that govern the combination of words and phrases into sentences and paragraphs**	Is familiar with home language sentence structure. This can be used to make connections to English sentence structure.
	Morphology	
Exposure to commonly used prefixes/suffixes in English.	**The smallest units of meaning within a word and the rules about how those words are formed**	Awareness of words and word parts can be used to teach prefixes and suffixes.
	Pragmatics	
Exposure to English use in social settings.	**The social use of language, including social norms**	Exposure to home language in social settings. Casual conversation in English can be added to repertoire.
	Discourse	
Exposure to written English in books, on signs, etc. Hear English in their daily interactions.	**Oral and written communication**	Exposure to written home language and English in books, on signs, etc. Hear home language and English in their daily interaction.

The Power of Speaking Practice in Lexia English

Research shows when Emergent Bilinguals have regular opportunities to practice speaking English, they're far more likely to improve their English fluency in all modalities. With Lexia® English's embedded Speech Recognition Engine, students receive immediate, non-judgmental feedback, giving them the confidence to speak not just in the Lexia English interface but also in the classroom.

Lexia English gets Emergent Bilingual students talking with its focus on oral language development. See what else this innovative program does and how it can accelerate learning for your Emergent Bilingual students.

Lexia ENGLISH™ LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Let's Get Talking

Lexia®