The student

Year Level: Yr 9 male, age 17
Background: Afghani, in Australia about 1 year
Language: Pashtu
Schooling: No previous schooling, attended an English language school prior to secondary school in Victoria

The task

Journal writing task set within an intensive English class. The task is quite familiar to the student. The first example below is a response to a text about a bike, while the second is the student’s own choice of topic. No scaffolding was provided.

The text shows that the student:

leaves spaces between words
forms and places letters on the line
writes legibly
writes sentences using basic subject-verb-object pattern
includes some simple adverbials of time, e.g. on the holidays, for three days
uses articles ‘a’, ‘the’
includes contractions, e.g. it’s
uses past tense of common irregular verbs, e.g. was, went
uses known words to attempt spelling of unfamiliar words, e.g. mather, father
includes basic punctuation
corrects, edits own work

This text is an example of a student at Stage SL Standard (S0.3). The text type and task are very familiar to the student. The student draws on oral language structures and incorporates familiar patterns and words to construct simple sentences. He uses basic conjunctions and corrects errors identified in his writing.