

Self-assessment Checklist for Reading (Unwritten Languages)

Here's how to use this checklist. You may want to make a photocopy of it so that more than one person can use it. You might also want to use pencil, so that you can erase your answers and use the checklist again.

1. Read each statement, and for each one circle the number which you feel best expresses how well you think you do *when actually using the target language in specific, real-life situations*.
2. If you feel that a statement describes something you would never want to do in the language, disregard it.
3. Go back and look at your answers for each level. For example, look at the Intermediate Level tasks. If you have marked yourself as at least *adequate* for nearly all of the items then you can assume that you have achieved that level of proficiency. If you have marked yourself as adequate for about half of the items, you may be in the upper range of the next lowest level.
4. Record your assessment of your level on the proficiency summary worksheet. (You may also want to photocopy that sheet and keep the original as a master copy.)

Reading Tasks for Unwritten Languages

Novice Level

There aren't really any reading tasks at this level, since you are probably the only one writing anything down!

Intermediate Level tasks

In a provisional script or IPA,

1. I can read simple, connected texts about predictable subjects

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

2. I can read instructions on how to do basic procedures

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

3. I can read short, straightforward descriptions of persons, places and things

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

4. I can read basic written directions on how to get somewhere

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

Advanced Level Tasks

I can read the following sorts of texts, written by native speaker authors or transcriptions of oral texts:

1. I can read narratives about something that happened in the past

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

2. I can read short stories

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

3. I can read news items in a local newspaper

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

4. I can read folk tales

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

5. I can read accounts of the history of the area or people

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

6. I can read health or agricultural manuals

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

Superior Level tasks

1. I can read and understand proverbs

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

2. I can read and understand traditional songs or poetry

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well

3. I can check materials translated from other languages and have a sense of the accuracy and naturalness of the translation.

1	2	3	4	5	6
not at all	barely	somewhat	adequately	well	extremely well