

Checklist for Evaluating Your Speaking Proficiency

Adapted from the work of Drs. T & E Brewster (LAMP) and Dr. O. B. Jenkins

Evaluate yourself as objectively as possible. Try to evaluate your average, overall ability. Don't mark yourself on your worst experiences, we all have bad days. Nor on the single occasion when everything went right.

Use a scale between 1 and 5 for each question. A mark of 4 or 5 is considered as a 'pass'. The numbers correspond approximately as follows

1 = with great difficulty

2 = fairly difficult

3 = with greater confidence or more ease

4 = with ease

5 = very easily, very well.

Level One Proficiency

Level one indicates an elementary speaking proficiency. You are able to satisfy routine travel needs and minimal courtesy requirements. You can ask and answer questions on very familiar topics within the scope of your limited language experience. Your speaking vocabulary is adequate to express elementary survival needs. You are at level one when you score an average of 80% using the following checklist.

Level Two Proficiency

Level two indicates limited work proficiency. At this level you can engage in superficial discussion on current events, and you can talk about yourself, your family and your work, you can meet limited work requirements like giving simple instructions or simple explanations and descriptions. You are at level two when you score at least 80% in both level one and level two.

Level Three Proficiency

Level three = minimal professional proficiency. You are able to speak with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to satisfy all social and work requirements. You can handle professional discussions within a specialized field. You can participate effectively in all general conversations and you can discuss topics of interest with reasonable ease. Your vocabulary is broad enough so that you rarely have to grope for a word. You are at level 3 when you have at least 80% in levels 2 and 3.

Level Four Proficiency

Level four = full professional proficiency. You are able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels pertinent to professional levels. You can understand and participate in any conversation with as high degree of fluency as in your mother tongue. and you are always easy to listen to. Your errors of grammar are quite rare and you correct yourself automatically and unconsciously. You can handle informal interpreting to and from your second language.

Level Five

Native speaker proficiency. Your level is equivalent to that of an educated native speaker.

Level One Proficiency

Level one indicates an elementary speaking proficiency. You are able to satisfy routine travel needs and minimal courtesy requirements. You can ask and answer questions on very familiar topics within the scope of your limited language experience. Your speaking vocabulary is adequate to express elementary survival needs. You are at level one when you score an average of 80% using the following checklist.

1	2	3	4	5	
					1. I can initiate conversations and use appropriate leave taking to close conversations
					2. I can ask questions to get information such as what?, who?, where?, when?, why?, how?
					3. I can ask the time of day, the day of the week and the season we are in.
					4. I can go to the market and ask for vegetables, meat, salt, etc. and can understand the prices given, I can bargain when appropriate.
					5. I can tell someone how to get to the post-office or river, to the house of the village-chief or my home.
					6. I can inquire about ways of traveling or sending a message to somebody.
					7. I can make a brief self-introduction or socially introduce a friend.
					8. I can understand and correctly respond to questions about my marital status, nationality, occupation, age.
					9. I can ask my neighbor or a friend to prepare a meal for me and give her instructions about what kind of food I want to eat.
					10. I can use the equivalent of the present, future, past and perfect tenses.
					11. I can correctly use the equivalent of the imperative form, possessive pronouns, singular/ plural distinction and different person- number combinations.
					12. I can pray a simple prayer.

Date total

Date total

Date total

Level One Plus

You have a level one plus when you score 80% in level one and can do at least 4 of level 2 activities.

Level Two Proficiency

Level two indicates limited work proficiency. At this level you can engage in superficial discussion on current events, and you can talk about yourself, your family and your work, you can meet limited work requirements like giving simple instructions or simple explanations and descriptions. You are at level two when you score at least 80% in both level one and level two.

1	2	3	4	5	
					1. I can give detailed information about the weather, my family, my home and my living arrangements.
					2. I can give a brief autobiography and also talk about my plans and hopes for the future.
					3. I can describe my recent job or activity in some detail and also describe my present role as a language learner.
					4. I can describe how people earn their living in my home country and in my host country and how old and sick people are taken care of in my home country.
					5. I can describe the geography and climate of my home country or area, and the area where I now live.
					6. I can describe the purpose and function of the organisation I represent.
					7. I feel confident that people understand me in my new language at least 80% of the time.
					8. I am confident that I understand what native speakers tell me on topics such as those in level two.
					9. I can give a brief testimony or Christian witness.
					10. I can use the language in hiring an employee and agreeing on qualifications, salary, hours and special duties.
					11. I can use tenses accurately to give precise ideas of the sequence of events.
					12. I can usually understand and use conditional and/ or relative structures correctly in most time frames.
					13. I am able to teach somebody to read and write using the language.

Date total

Date total

Date total

Level Two Plus

Your rate of speech and fluency is increasing due to your continuing accuracy practice with sentence structure, combined with regular communication using new topics. You are at level two plus when you score 80% of level two activities and can do at least four of level three activities.

Level Three Proficiency

Level three = minimal professional proficiency. You are able to speak with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to satisfy all social and work requirements. You can handle professional discussions within a specialized field. You can participate effectively in all general conversations and you can discuss topics of interest with reasonable ease. Your vocabulary is broad enough so that you rarely have to grope for a word. You are at level 3 when you have at least 80% in levels 2 and 3.

1	2	3	4	5	
					1. I do not try to avoid any of the grammatical features of the language.
					2. I now have sufficient vocabulary and grasp of grammatical structure to accurately complete any sentence that I begin.
					3. I can speak at a normal rate of speech with only rare hesitations.
					4. I can confidently follow and contribute to a conversation between native speakers.
					5. I can listen, take notes and summarize a sermon or public speech given by a native speaker.
					6. I can speak to a group of native speakers on a social or other issue and have confidence that I am communicating what I want to.
					7. I can understand opposing points of view, and politely defend my faith in Christ from attack by a non-Christian.
					8. I can cope with a social blunder, and apologise or make restitution in an acceptable manner without losing face in a public situation.
					9. I can teach an adult Bible study and / or literacy class and handle questions and discussions.
					10. I can witness to a native speaker or preach a sermon, confident that I am clearly communicating what I intend.
					11. I can mostly understand two or more native speakers talking with each other about a current issue or event.
					12. I feel I can carry out my work in my new language.

Date Total

Date Total

Date Total

Level Three plus

Your vocabulary is getting much broader. Your fluency continues to improve and you almost understand idiomatic speech that native speakers use when talking to each other. You still make grammatical errors with some sentence patterns. You have level three plus when you score at least 80% in level three and can do 4 of level four's activities.

Level Four Proficiency

Level four = full professional proficiency You are able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels pertinent to professional levels. You can understand and participate in any conversation with as high degree of fluency as in your mother tongue. and you are always easy to listen to. Your errors of grammar are quite rare and you correct yourself automatically and unconsciously. You can handle informal interpreting to and from your second language.

1	2	3	4	5	
					1. I have a comprehensive grasp of all grammatical features and practically never make grammatical mistakes, even in complex constructions.
					2. I can always understand native speakers when they talk with each other on a broad range of subjects (history, gossip, social issues, religion, sport, politics)
					3. I can understand subtle humor, idioms, and language puns, plays on words, etc. and I can actively participate in such humorous situations.
					4. My vocabulary is always extensive and precise enough for me to convey my exact meaning in all social and official situations.
					5. I feel that I have a comprehensive grasp of the local cultural worldview and values, and could describe them in the language.
					6. I can appropriately alter my speech style for a public speech, a conversation with a government official, a teenager, a close friend a pastor, etc.
					7. I can detect errors of style in speech of native speakers.
					8. I can serve as an informal interpreter for an important guest at a special meetings.
					9. In all social and official functions I can function as effectively in my new language as in my mother tongue.

Date total

Date total

Date total

Level Four plus

You are short of native speaker proficiency. People feel that you share their world view and values well enough to talk about and defend any of their benefits and values. A specific weakness or cultural area will keep you from level five.

Level Five

Native speaker proficiency. Your level is equivalent to that of an educated native speaker.