Language Proficiency Outcomes: What I Can Do

Track your progress across the four language skills

READING

NOVICE			INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED			SUPERIOR
Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	
I can identify some words, phrases, or characters, especially those that are similar to words in my own language. I can recognize familiar words in simple messages.	I can understand familiar words, phrases, and simple sentences. I can understand simple written messages and questions about familiar topics.	I can understand some ideas in simple texts that contain familiar vocabulary. I can understand the main idea and some details in texts that contain familiar vocabulary. I can understand simple written exchanges and messages on familiar topics.	I can understand the main idea and many details in texts that contain familiar vocabulary and some details in texts that contain unfamiliar vocabulary. I can understand written exchanges and follow simple written conversations on familiar topics.	I can understand the main idea and most details in texts on familiar topics. I can understand the main idea and many details in texts that contain unfamiliar vocabulary. I can follow and participate in written discussions and exchanges on familiar topics.	I can usually understand viewpoints and attitudes expressed in literary and non-literary texts. I can understand complex written exchanges and discussions, including those with multiple participants.	I can easily understand long, complex texts and recognize some literary and technical styles. I can understand extended written discussions and exchanges on unfamiliar topics with fluency.	I can understand abstract and linguistically complex texts. I can make appropriate inferences and identify literary elements. I can understand sophisticated written communications and exchanges across a wide range of topics and contexts.	I can understand with ease virtually all forms of written language. I can understand complex written exchanges with cultural nuances and implied meanings.	I can understand with ease virtually all forms of written language. I can effortlessly understand any written communication in any context.

WRITING

NOVICE				INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED		
Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	
I can copy some characters and words. I can write single words and memorized phrases.	I can provide some basic information on familiar topics in lists, phrases, and memorized expressions. I can write simple messages using words and phrases.	I can write descriptions and short messages to request or provide information on familiar topics using phrases and simple sentences. I can exchange written information on familiar tasks and topics.	I can write on familiar topics and experiences using a series of sentences with some details. I can write simple messages and participate in brief written exchanges on familiar topics.	I can write communications, descriptions, and explanations on familiar topics using connected sentences with many details. I can exchange written opinions and information on a variety of familiar topics.	I can write communications, narratives, descriptions, or explanations on familiar topics using connected, detailed paragraphs. I can write to express and support my views in written discussions and exchanges.	I can express ideas on a variety of topics in clear, organized texts. I can adjust my writing for some audiences. I can participate in written discussions and exchanges with fluency on familiar topics, even in complicated situations.	I can write detailed texts on a broad variety of concrete social and professional topics. I can express and defend my viewpoint in written communications on familiar and some new topics, including academic and professional topics.	I can express myself with fluency and precision on concrete and some abstract topics. I can adapt my writing style according to purpose and audience. I can write with fluency, flexibility and precision, adapting my language for different written contexts and situations.	I can effectively and consistently express myself in a variety of styles for academic and professional audiences and purposes. I can write effortlessly for any purpose in any written communication context.

LISTENING

NOVICE				INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED		
Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	
I can understand a few familiar words. I can understand some words that are similar to those in my own language. I can understand simple words in conversations directed at me.	I can understand some everyday words, phrases and questions about myself, my personal experiences, and my surroundings, when people speak slowly and clearly or there is repetition. I can understand simple questions and responses in basic conversations.	I can understand some ideas on familiar topics containing phrases, simple sentences, and frequently used expressions. I can understand the main point in short conversations, messages and announcements. I can follow simple conversations and exchanges on familiar topics when I am a participant.	I can understand the main idea and some details on familiar topics expressed in sentences, short conversations, presentations, and messages. I can understand and participate in conversations and discussions on familiar topics with some details.	I can understand the main idea and many details on familiar topics in a series of connected sentences, conversations, presentations, and messages. I can follow and participate in extended conversations and group discussions on familiar topics.	I can understand the main points and most details in conversations, presentations, and messages on familiar topics. I can understand the main idea and some details on unfamiliar topics. I can participate in complex conversations and handle discussions with complications on familiar topics.	I can understand some extended speech on unfamiliar topics delivered through a variety of media. I can understand most spoken language and some technical discussions. I can understand some accents and dialects. I can participate actively in extended discussions and handle complicated conversational situations with fluency.	I can clearly understand extended speech and short lectures, even when somewhat complicated. I can understand most forms of media with little effort. I can participate in sophisticated discussions and debates, understanding multiple perspectives and complex arguments.	I can understand any kind of spoken language, including most accents and dialects. I can participate effortlessly in any conversation or discussion, understanding subtle nuances and cultural references.	I can understand any kind of spoken language, including most accents and dialects. I can participate effortlessly in any spoken interaction in any context.

SPEAKING

NOVICE				INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED		
Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	
can provide information about myself and my immediate surroundings using single words or memorized phrases. I can communicate using single words and memorized phrases.	I can provide information about myself and my immediate surroundings using words, phrases, and memorized expressions. I can interact with help using words, phrases, and memorized expressions. I can answer simple questions on very familiar topics.	I can provide basic information on familiar topics using phrases and simple sentences. I can exchange information on familiar tasks, topics, and activities. I can handle short social interactions using phrases and simple sentences, but may need help or visuals to keep the conversation going.	I can provide information on familiar topics using a series of sentences with some details. I can begin and carry on a conversation on a limited number of familiar topics. I can ask and answer simple questions and exchange information in familiar situations using phrases and a series of sentences.	I can describe experiences, events, and plans, give opinions, narrate a story, and make a simple factual presentation using connected sentences with many details. I can state my views and carry on conversations on a variety of familiar topics and in uncomplicated situations.	I can present information on familiar topics with clarity and detail. I can present my viewpoint on an issue and support my opinions. I can state and support my views and take an active part in discussions. I can handle some complicated situations on familiar topics.	I can deliver a clear, organized presentation appropriate to my audience on a variety of topics. I can communicate with a fair amount of fluency and spontaneity on familiar topics, even in complicated situations. I can link ideas in extended discussions. I can participate actively in most informal and a few formal conversations.	I can deliver a clearly articulated presentation on personal, academic, or professional topics. I can actively express myself with fluency and flexibility on a range of familiar and some new topics, including concrete social, academic, and professional topics. I can express and defend my viewpoint or recommendations.	I can deliver a clear and fluid presentation and appropriately respond to the audience. I can express myself with fluency, flexibility and precision on concrete and some abstract topics. I can adapt my language in most situations.	I can deliver a presentation for a variety of purposes in a style appropriate to any type of audience. I can effectively and consistently use language for all purposes. I can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion.