

ACTFL Proficiency Level Overview

Novice		
<i>Communicates at word level; communication must be prompted</i>		
Low 25 -50 words, characterized by lists and some memorized phrases	Middle Can use memorized phrases, 50+ words, may be hard to understand. Still no creative language.	High 50% of the time at the Intermediate level; Some sentences, beginning to recombine memorized phrases.
Intermediate		
<i>Communicates at sentence level; communicates autonomously</i>		
Low Can manage in predictable situations, producing at least a sentence at a time. Creates personalized meaning with the language.	Middle Can speak in sentences. Can manage informal settings and predictable situations (shopping, restaurant).	High 50% of the time at the Advanced level: describing and narrating in all time frames in paragraph-length discourse but not consistently.
Advanced		
<i>Communicates at paragraph level; develops well-formed narratives with internal logic</i>		
Low Can narrate and describe in all time frames in paragraph-length discourse talking about self and others with minimal coherence and cohesion.	Middle Can narrate and describe in all time frames in paragraph-length discourse talking about self and others with broader range of cohesive devices.	High 50% of the time at the Superior level; supporting opinions and hypothesizing in extended discourse with no patterned errors.

Proficiency Baseline levels

Proficiency Level	Academic Settings / Learner levels	Other professional settings
Advanced-low	K-12 Language teacher, Undergraduate language majors with a year of study abroad	Physician, Police Officer, Military Linguist, Billing Clerk
Intermediate-high	Undergraduate language majors without a study abroad experience	Aviation Personnel, Receptionist, Missionary
Intermediate-mid	AP High School students, College students after 4-6 semesters	Tour Guide, Cashier, Sales Clerk
Intermediate-low	High School students after 4 years, College students after 2 semesters	

Targeted High School Proficiency levels

Year	Throughout Year	End of Year
AP	Intermediate Mid	Intermediate Mid, approaching Intermediate High
4	Intermediate Low	Intermediate Low, approaching intermediate Mid
3	Novice High, approaching Intermediate Low	Intermediate Low
2	Novice Mid	Novice High

Notes by Michele Whaley, organized by Nathan Black.

Sources

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