

Oral Proficiency Levels in the Work World

ACTFL Level	US Gov	Language Functions	Corresponding Professions/Positions	Examples of Who Is Likely to Function at the Level?
Distinguished	5	<i>Ability to tailor language to specific audience, persuade, negotiate. Deal with nuance and subtlety.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplomat, Contract Negotiator, International Specialist, Translator/Interpreter, Intelligence Specialist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly articulate, professionally specialized native speakers; • L2 learners with extended (17 years) and current professional and/or educational experience in the target culture
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Superior	3	<i>Discuss topics extensively, support opinions, hypothesize. Deal with linguistically unfamiliar situation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University FL Professor, Business Executive, Lawyer, Judge, Financial Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-educated native speakers • Educated L2 learners with extended professional and/or educational experience in the target language environment
Advanced High	2+	<i>Narrate and describe in past, present and future and deal effectively with an unanticipated complication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician, Military Linguist, Senior Consultant, Human Resources Personnel, Financial Broker, Translation Officer, Marketing Manager, Communications Consultant. • Fraud Specialist, Account Executive, Court Stenographer /Interpreter, Benefits Specialist, Technical Service Agent, Collection Representative, Estimating Coordinator • Customer Service Agent, Social Worker, Claims Processor, K-12 Language Teacher, Police Officer, Maintenance Administrator, Billing Clerk, Legal Secretary, Legal Receptionist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 learners with graduate degrees in language- related area and extended educational experience in target environment • Heritage speakers, informal learners, non-academic learners who have significant contact with language • Undergraduate language majors with year-long study abroad experience
Advanced Mid				
Advanced Low				
Intermediate High	1+	<i>Create with language, initiate, maintain and bring to a close simple conversations by asking and responding to simple questions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto Inspector, Aviation Personnel, Missionary, Tour guide • Cashier, Sales clerk (highly predictable contexts) • Receptionist, Housekeeping Staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate language majors without year-long study abroad experience. • L2 learners after 6-8 year sequences of study (AP, etc.) or • 4-6 semester college sequence • L2 learners after 4 year high school sequence or 2 semester college sequence
Intermediate Mid				
Intermediate Low				
Novice High Novice Mid Novice Low	0+ 0	<i>Communicate minimally with formulaic and rote utterances, lists and phrases</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 learners after 2 years of high school language study