

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures  
www.fll.unm.edu  
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Course Syllabus: FRENCH 202

Course Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

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Office hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Lower Division Coordinator: Marina Peters-Newell, Ortega 319B ph. 277-0525

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Required Textbooks and materials: *Sur le vif*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. + Quia (textbook bundled with Quia e-SAM printed access card)128571640X

Quia course ID:

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to FRENCH 202! This course is designed to further your understanding of the French language and francophone cultures and will prepare you to continue your study of French at the 300-level. Conducted exclusively in French, the course helps you to develop the basic communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in a dynamic student-interactive learning environment at an Intermediate-high level. This course is aimed at teaching the student to communicate in a more sustained way in situations that go beyond the everyday. Students will evaluate various French and Francophone products, practices, and create ways to demonstrate their sense of personal and social responsibility through participation in cultural interaction.

2-3 hours of homework per class session is considered standard.

By the end of the semester, the student will have satisfied the following objectives:

1. Students can participate with ease and confidence in conversations on familiar topics. They can usually describe people, places, and things. They can usually talk about events and experiences in various time frames.
2. Students can handle social interactions in everyday situations, sometimes even when there is an unexpected complication.
3. Students can write about topics related to school, work, and community in a generally organized way. They can write some simple paragraphs about events and experiences in various time frames.
4. Students can easily understand the main idea in messages and presentations on a variety of topics related to everyday life and personal interests and studies.
5. Students can usually understand a few details of what I overhear in conversations, even when something unexpected is expressed. The student can sometimes follow what they hear about events and experiences in various time frames.

6. Students can understand the main idea of texts with topics related to everyday life, personal interests, and studies, as well as sometimes follow stories and descriptions about events and experiences in various time frames.
7. Students can analyze beliefs, behaviors and cultural artifacts of the French-speaking world, and recognize and discuss the representations and controversies of French and Francophone products, practices, and perspectives.
8. Students will engage with social issues confronting the French-speaking world to create ways to demonstrate their sense of personal and social responsibility.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Students will be assessed over the course of the semester in the following areas:

- ✦ interpersonal communication
- ✦ listening and reading comprehension
- ✦ writing
- ✦ oral interview
- ✦ culture
- ✦ student self-assessment

This course follows ACTFL language guidelines, integrating the five C's: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities, to offer the student a well-rounded classroom experience.

FRENCH 202 is for students who have had 3 semesters of French in college, or three years in high school. Many of you who have such a background may never have experienced a course in which your participation and energy are so crucial. Although you may feel anxious at first about having to express yourself in French, you will find that your progress will surprise you. Of course, your success in communicating in class will be directly related to the time you invest in preparation. We hope that your experience in this course will be a positive and productive one.



**ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT** Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs Office.

**TITLE IX-** In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see pg 15 - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

CAPS (Center for Academic Program Support) offers free French language tutoring. For more information on scheduling, see: [www.unm.edu/caps](http://www.unm.edu/caps)

Appropriate language placement: Language courses are most effective when all students in the class are at a similar level of competency. The department reserves the right to determine placement and to drop any student whose language proficiency level is inappropriate.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**TEXTBOOK:** The backbone of this course is the textbook *Sur le vif*, providing "real life" topics for the student to study and discuss while fine-tuning grammatical accuracy.

**PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:** In FRENCH 202, the regular attendance and active participation of each student are essential. Since the class is based on student interaction, your absence will be felt sorely. If you do miss a class, please contact a classmate to ensure that you keep abreast of assigned homework. After 2 absences, your attendance grade will be lowered by 4% per class. There are no "excused absences". Those students with excellent attendance and participation records will receive a bonus on their final grade.

**HOMEWORK:** You will find that regular rather than sporadic preparation will help you to make steady progress in this course. Always come to class prepared by reading and studying the pages in your textbook indicated by your instructor. Your instructor will regularly assign and collect homework. Late homework will not be accepted.

### TALKABROAD (<https://talkabroad.com>)

Students are required to participate in 5 online/telephone conversations over the course of the semester. Each conversation will last 30 minutes with a certified TalkAbroad native speaker of your choice. These conversations are mandatory (failure to participate in these sessions will result in a loss of 2% on your overall grade per session)

For more explanation, be sure to read the student manual once you log in.

Section code :

Pre-registration code :

**Student self-assessment:** Students will be charting their own progress through the course via "can-do statements". These will be available on the Learn site, and due on a weekly basis. Your ability to respond to the can-do statements in a timely manner will be reflected in your participation grade.

**ON-LINE WORKBOOK AND ACTIVITIES:** You will be required to complete activities on-line as assigned by the instructor. The instructor is not responsible for the student's technical problems. For questions, talk to the Quia support team. If your problems prevent you from submitting work in a timely fashion, you will require proof of your dialogue with the support team to receive credit for the work, or to be exempted.

**CULTURE:** You are required to write at least 4 journal entries per semester in French about the cultural subject(s) presented in that chapter or indicated by your instructor. Length of the entries will be determined by your instructor. These will be graded according to the rubric (see below). At least one of these entries will be in the form of an on-line discussion where you will be required to respond to at least 2 classmates' entries. The journal entries are considered as a part of the homework grade but consequences for failing to submit an entry will be considerably higher. Students are allowed 1 late entry, but each subsequent late or omitted journal entry will result in a reduction of 2% on the student's overall grade.

<b>Culture rubric</b> (80% meets objectives)	Excellent 100 – 90%	Good 89 – 80%	Limited 79 – 70%	Poor 69 – 0%
Understanding of cultural piece/text/video etc.	Clear understanding demonstrated.	Understanding is demonstrated for the most part.	Understanding is incomplete, but potential is there.	No understanding demonstrated, or misunderstood
Comparisons (between target culture and native culture) Articulation of differences and/or similarities	In-depth, insightful comparisons made. Multiple angles explored.	Interesting comparisons made, lacking some depth. Multiple angles mentioned.	Comparison(s) is mentioned but not explored. Superficial.	No comparisons
Personal, thoughtful engagement with topic	Original personal investment in the topic that seems well thought-out	Some personal engagement with evidence of reflection.	Personal engagement is either minimal and/or unconvincing	No personal engagement demonstrated
Relevance to topic	Completely and consistently on topic	Mostly on topic	Somewhat on topic	Not on topic
*Evidence of research	Excellent demonstration of researched topic	Demonstration of research is apparent, but lacks rigor	Demonstration of research is poor. Sources are poorly chosen.	No research demonstrated
**Length	Required length achieved	Required length achieved	Required length almost achieved	Unacceptable length
***Peer response	Complete	Missing some of the requirements	Missing most of the requirements	No peer response, or late peer response

\* evidence of research would only be applied in journal entries (in other words, not on the exam questions)

\*\* length must be determined by individual instructors

\*\*\* Peer response valid only in on-line threaded discussions where peer responses are required

**COMPOSITIONS:** Two compositions will be assigned over the course of the semester. They will be assessed according to the following criteria: vocabulary, grammar, organization/style, communication of ideas. Compositions should be typed and double-spaced. Late compositions will not be accepted. Students are required to revise compositions and hand them in a second time. The grade may be

adjusted according to the quality of the rewrite by a maximum of 10%. If changes/corrections are deemed insufficient by the instructor in the rewrite, or if the rewrite is not turned in, that assignment will receive a 0. Naturally, the student will be expected to create and write these compositions by him/herself, without help from others and without the use of a computer translator or any other form of computer dictionary software. Suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please read the guidelines found in your UNM Pathfinder regarding academic honesty and plagiarism: <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-policies/student-code-of-conduct.html>

	Vocabulary	Grammar/Usage	Organization/Style	Communication of ideas
90-100%	Excellent and appropriate control and choice of vocabulary; variety of words used	Excellent control of grammar, spelling, and punctuation; very few errors	Sentence lengths and patterns varied; tone consistent; writing contains related ideas; writing follows logical plan with a clear sense of beginning and closure	Relevant and appropriate response to task, content communicated well; appropriate length
80-89%	Good control and choice of vocabulary; moderate variety of words	Good control of grammar, spelling, and punctuation; some avoidable errors	Sentence lengths and patterns show some variety; tone is generally consistent; most ideas are related; writing usually follows a logical plan with some sense of beginning and closure	Generally good content, though topic may not be fully explored; appropriate length
70-79%	Fair control and choice of vocabulary; minimal variety of words used	Fair control of grammar, spelling, and punctuation; many errors	Sentence lengths and/or patterns are seldom varied; tone is inconsistent or shows lack of involvement; ideas are often unrelated; writing often strays from a logical plan with a weak sense of beginning or lack of closure	Adequate content, though repetitious and simplistic; not long enough
63-69%	Poor control and choice of vocabulary; definite lack of variety	Excessive grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors	Sentence lengths and patterns are repetitious; tone is lifeless and shows no involvement; writing follows no logical plan	Inadequate development of ideas and content; poor ability to communicate; brevity compromises message
50-62%	Incomprehensible	Meaning blocked; text dominated by errors	No evidence of organization or style	No relevance to task; not enough to evaluate

**ORAL ASSIGNMENTS:** For the oral presentation, the student will be asked to research either a specifically francophone subject or the culture of a specific region, and to present this to the class (8-10 min.). If you are presenting a Powerpoint, you are limited to a maximum of 5 words of text per slide. A more in-depth description will be made available by your instructor later in the semester. The presentation will be evaluated according to the following criteria: grammar, ease of expression, pronunciation, vocabulary, creativity, ability to engage class.

For the oral interview, the instructor will record the student speaking on a given subject for 1-2 min. This recording will be assessed by two instructors.

**EXAMS AND QUIZZES:** There will be 2 exams given over the course of the semester. These are proficiency, culture, and grammar tests. No make-up exams will be given. In addition, a number of quizzes, both oral and written, will be given throughout the semester. These are to ensure that you are staying abreast of the material. They may also apply to assignments given outside of class, or Quia activities, to determine how well they were completed and understood. The instructor may or may not be more specific as to the format and content of each quiz. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Assessments are an opportunity to inform both the student and the teacher of the effectiveness of course learning and teaching. In some cases, assessments will be reflected in the overall student grade. In others, it is simply an opportunity to ensure that course objectives are being met.

**LEARN:** You are expected to consult the class LEARN site daily for updates, as well as rubrics for writing and oral assignments.

**FINAL EXAM:** This is a combination proficiency exam for reading and writing, as well as a grammar and culture exam. The listening exam will be administered during class time within 2 weeks of the final exam. The oral interview constitutes the oral assessment part of the final exam.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Two points of extra credit on the final grade are available for students who attend UNM French club events and activities (some of which may require the submission of brief reports). Students will receive .5% for each event attended, with a maximum of 2% overall.

**INCOMPLETES:** In accordance with University policy, incompletes are granted only in the most extreme and unusual circumstances. Your instructor cannot award you an incomplete. An unapproved incomplete given by teaching assistants will be converted to an "F".

**WITHDRAW:** After the deadline to drop a course without Dean's approval (12th week of the semester for 16 week courses - check registrar.unm.edu for all course deadlines), you must obtain approval from the Dean of your college. Through your advisement center you may petition for Dean's approval. This process is for dropping one or more courses but not all courses for the semester. If you need to drop all of your courses, please meet with the Dean of Students Office (dos.unm.edu).

**Criteria:** Students may be allowed to drop courses because they have extenuating circumstances that prevent them from completing their course. Extenuating circumstances include but are not limited to:

- Medical condition of student or immediate family member that has made it impossible to continue the course
- Death of an immediate family member that necessitates leaving the University
- A work schedule that is requiring travel, extended work hours, or reassignment

Finally, if you have problems or questions concerning this course, please contact your Instructor or the Lower Division Coordinator. We will be glad to help you.

**GRADES:** Grades will be calculated on a percentage basis as follows:

Participation and attendance	10%
homework	25%
TalkAbroad (Mandatory, any missed conversations will deduct 2% from the overall grade)	
Quizzes	5%
Compositions	10%
Exam 1	5%
Exam 2	5%
Oral presentation	10%
Oral interview	10%
Final exam (listening/reading/writing)	10%
Final exam (grammar / culture)	10%

### FRANCAIS 202

(Homework will be assigned regularly by the instructor)

DATES	<i>Sur le vif</i>	COMPOSITIONS	QUIZZES
18 janvier	introductions		
20 janvier	ch. 1		
23 janvier			
25 janvier			
27 janvier	ch. 2		
30 janvier			
1 février			
3 février			Quiz 1
6 février	ch. 3		
8 février			
10 février			Quiz 2
13 février		Composition 1	



15 février	ch. 4		
17 février			Quiz 3
20 février			
22 février			
24 février	ch. 5		Quiz 4
27 février		comp 1 à rendre	
1 mars			
3 mars			
4 mars	<b>WORLD LANGUAGE EXPO</b>		
6 mars	EXAMEN 1		
8 mars	ch. 6		
10 mars		Réécriture de la comp 1 à rendre	
12-19 mars	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
20 mars			
22 mars			
24 mars			Quiz 5
27 mars	ch. 7		
29 mars			
31 mars		Composition 2	
3 avril	EXAMEN 2		
5 avril			
7 avril	ch. 8		Quiz 6
10 avril			
12 avril			
14 avril		Composition 2 à rendre	Quiz 7
17 avril	ch. 9		
19 avril			
21 avril			Quiz 8
24 avril			
26 avril			
28 avril	examen de la compréhension auditive	réécriture de la comp 2 à rendre	
1 mai	entretiens oraux		
3 mai	révisions		

5 mai	révisions		
8 mai	EXAMEN FINAL 3- 5 p.m.		

Student name:		Can-do statements (NCSSFL-ACTFL)	
✓	statement	date	evidence

### INTERPERSONAL SPEAKING

Intermediate high: I can participate with ease and confidence in conversations on familiar topics. I can usually talk about events and experiences in various time frames. I can usually describe people, places, and things. I can handle social interactions in everyday situations, sometimes even when there is an unexpected complication.

#### I can exchange information related to areas of mutual interest

	I can ask for and provide information about specific events.		
	I can ask for and provide information about a hobby or lifestyle, such as bicycling, vegetarianism, video games, or sports.		
	I can ask for and provide descriptions of places I know and also places I would like to visit.		
	I can talk about my family history		
	I can talk about jobs and career plans		

#### I can use my language to do a task that requires multiple steps.

	I can give the basic rules of a game or sport and answer questions about them.		
	I can ask for, follow, and give instructions for preparing food.		
	I can ask for and follow directions to get from one place to another.		
	I can tell someone how to access information online.		
	I can explain basic rules, policies, or laws that affect us and answer questions about them.		

#### I can use my language to handle a situation that may have a complication.

	I can arrange for a make-up exam or reschedule an appointment.		
	I can return an item I have purchased to a store.		
	I can plan an outing with a group of friends.		

What else can you do?


### PRESENTATIONAL SPEAKING

Intermediate low: I can make presentations in a generally organized way on school, work, and community

topics, and on topics I have researched. I can make presentations on some events and experiences in various time frames.

**I can present information on academic and work topics.**

	I can present ideas about something I have learned, such as an historical event, a famous person, or a current environmental issue.		
	I can explain a series of steps needed to complete a task or experiment.		
	I can explain to someone who was absent what took place in class or on the job.		
	I can present my qualifications and goals for an academic program, training, or job.		

**I can make a presentation on events, activities, and topics of particular interest.**

	I can present on something I learned from the media		
	I can make a presentation about an interesting person.		
	I can summarize a personal, historical, or cultural event.		
	I can give a presentation about my interests, hobbies, lifestyle, or preferred activities.		
	I can make a presentation about the history or current status of a school, organization, or company.		
	I can make a presentation about future plans		

**I can present my point of view and provide reasons to support it.**

	I can make a presentation on rules or policies such as cell phone use, dress code, or requirements for driving and explain my viewpoint.		
	I can share and justify my opinion on common issues such as allowances for children, curfews for teenagers, budget-related topics, etc.		
	I can explain my point of view on current event topics such as recycling, nutrition and exercise, the food supply, conserving energy resources, extreme weather events, etc.		

What else can I do?


**PRESENTATIONAL WRITING**

Intermediate high: I can write on topics related to school, work, and community in a generally organized way. I can write some simple paragraphs about events and experiences in various time frames.

**I can write about school and academic topics.**

	I can write a simple summary about something I have learned		
	I can write a series of steps needed to complete a task, such as for an experiment.		
	I can prepare notes for someone who was absent from class or		

	school		
	I can write the content for a multi-media presentation, a handout, a synopsis, etc.		
<b>I can write about work and career topics.</b>			
	I can write a simple summary about an assignment or task that I've been asked to do.		
	I can document the series of steps needed to complete a task or project.		
	I can prepare notes for someone who is new or has been absent from a project, team, or work meeting		
	I can draft a work plan		
	I can write the content for a multi-media presentation, a handout, a synopsis, etc.		
<b>I can write about community topics and events.</b>			
	I can write a summary about something I have researched		
	I can write a series of steps needed to complete a task, such as for a community event or a fund raiser.		
	I can summarize what has been happening in the community for someone who is new or has been away.		
<b>I can write about an entertainment or social event.</b>			
	I can summarize a conversation or interview that I had with someone.		
	I can describe an event that I participated in or witnessed.		
	I can write a brief summary of the plot of a movie or an episode of a TV show.		
<b>INTERPRETIVE LISTENING</b>			
Intermediate low: I can easily understand the main idea in messages and presentations on a variety of topics related to everyday life and personal interests and studies. I can usually understand a few details of what I overhear in conversations, even when something unexpected is expressed. I can sometimes follow what I hear about events and experiences in various time frames.			
<b>I can easily understand straightforward information or interactions</b>			
	I can understand the descriptions of avatars in a new video game		
	I can understand an interview between a student reporter and foreign visitors about activities they have done and are planning to do while in town		
	I can understand a tour guide's description of a city's history and attractions		
<b>I can understand a few details in ads, announcements, and other simple recordings.</b>			
	I can understand a few details about a nutritional recommendation in a public service health announcement.		
	I can understand the services offered in an ad about a car repair service.		
	I can understand a few details from public service announcements		

	such as severe weather warnings or safety alerts.		
<b>I can sometimes understand situations with complicating factors.</b>			
	I can understand a voice message from an exchange student telling why she will be late.		
	I can understand a phone message about a change in meeting times and place.		
	I can understand a voice message from the airlines about changes to a flight schedule.		
What else can you do?			
<b>INTERPRETIVE READING</b>			
Intermediate high: I can easily understand the main idea of texts related to everyday life, personal interests, and studies. I can sometimes follow stories and descriptions about events and experiences in various time frames.			
<b>I can understand accounts of personal events or experiences</b>			
	I can understand information about an upcoming excursion, such as a class trip or company event.		
	I can understand a friend's postcard describing a family vacation.		
	I can understand descriptions of a Peace Corps volunteer's daily life.		
<b>I can sometimes follow short, written instructions when supported by visuals.</b>			
	I can follow the instructions to use an ATM		
	I can follow the instructions to make an online purchase.		
	I can follow simple directions to do an experiment in a science class		
	I can understand the basic instructions for playing a video game		
<b>I can understand the main idea of and a few supporting facts about famous people and historic events.</b>			
	I can read a short summary of a historical figure's accomplishments		
	I can understand the main idea and a few supporting facts about a scientific discovery from a summarized description.		
What else can you do?			

NCSSFL Interculturality can-do statements

INTERMEDIATE

# Investigation of Products and Practices

I can identify common patterns in the products and practices of a culture.

✓	Statement	date	evidence
	I can explore and reference current and past examples of authentic culture		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can understand the main idea and characters of short stories, folk tales, or graphic novels</li> <li>• I can recognize and reference famous artists and their works</li> <li>• I can understand the main idea of a movie clip or documentary</li> <li>• I can talk about a historical figure</li> <li>• I can have a simple conversation about a festival</li> <li>• I can summarize the contributions of a culture in a blog or multimedia presentation</li> </ul>		
	I can compare and contrast some common products of other cultures and my own		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can describe similarities and differences in artwork</li> <li>• I can have a simple conversation about educational systems</li> <li>• I can provide basic information about countries' government</li> <li>• I can identify similarities among folk tales</li> </ul>		
	I can compare and contrast some behaviors or practices of other cultures and my own		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can compare and contrast eating habits</li> <li>• I can compare and contrast how people buy and sell</li> <li>• I can compare and contrast how families interact</li> <li>• I can compare and contrast how people celebrate</li> <li>• I can compare and contrast how my peers socialize</li> </ul>		

# Understanding of cultural perspectives

I can compare familiar cultural beliefs and values

	I can describe some basic cultural viewpoints		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can talk about the individual role of family members and the importance of birth order</li> <li>• I can give examples that show the importance of academics vs. sports</li> <li>• I can describe the importance of time vs. money</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I can make simple comparisons about the roles of men and women in society</i></li> <li>• <i>I can describe the importance of religion</i></li> <li>• <i>I can describe how other cultures view major historical events differently</i></li> </ul>		
	I can make some generalizations about a culture		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I can sometimes identify cultural stereotypes or exaggerated views of a culture</i></li> <li>• <i>I can compare some religious beliefs</i></li> <li>• <i>I can classify the political beliefs of a nation in simple terms</i></li> <li>• <i>I can determine which tv shows and films are popular in a given culture</i></li> </ul>		

## Participation in Cultural Interaction

### I can interact at a functional level in familiar cultural contexts

	I can handle short interactions with peers and colleagues in familiar situations at school, work, or play.		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I can usually accept and refuse invitations in a culturally appropriate way</i></li> <li>• <i>I can usually offer and receive gifts in a culturally appropriate way</i></li> <li>• <i>I can usually request assistance in a culturally appropriate way</i></li> <li>• <i>I can respond in a culturally accepted way when someone sneezes, toasts, or pays me a compliment, etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>I can use some appropriate cultural conventions such as body language, turn-taking, interrupting, and agreeing, when talking with others</i></li> </ul>		
	I can recognize and refer to elements of traditional and pop culture		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I can refer to the importance of a historical event</i></li> <li>• <i>I can describe the outcome in a recent election</i></li> <li>• <i>I can talk about the popularity of a hit song</i></li> <li>• <i>I can mention the significance of a work of art in conversation</i></li> <li>• <i>I can describe the difference between a traditional costume and a fashion trend</i></li> </ul>		
	I can sometimes recognize when I have caused a cultural misunderstanding and try to correct it		
	<p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I can identify the appropriateness of topics and usually participate in conversations about them when attending a</i></li> </ul>		

*social or family event*

- *I can sometimes sense when my behavior or speech has offended someone and apologize appropriately*
- *I can sometimes recognize when I have acted or spoken too informally and try to correct it*
- *I can sometimes recognize when my attempt at humor is misguided*





## ACTFL oral proficiency guidelines: **Speaking**

for sample audio clips, go to: <http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/speaking>

<p>NOVICE general description</p>	<p>The Novice level is characterized by the ability to communicate minimally with learned material. Novice-level speakers can communicate short messages on highly predictable, everyday topics that affect them directly. They do so primarily through the use of isolated words and phrases that have been encountered, memorized, and recalled. Novice-level speakers may be difficult to understand even by the most sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to non-native speech.</p>
<p>Novice-low</p>	<p>Speakers at the Novice Low sublevel have no real functional ability and, because of their pronunciation, may be unintelligible. Given adequate time and familiar cues, they may be able to exchange greetings, give their identity, and name a number of familiar objects from their immediate environment. They are unable to perform functions or handle topics pertaining to the Intermediate level, and cannot therefore participate in a true conversational exchange.</p>
<p>Novice-mid</p>	<p>Speakers at the Novice Mid sublevel communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases limited by the particular context in which the language has been learned. When responding to direct questions, they may say only two or three words at a time or give an occasional stock answer. They pause frequently as they search for simple vocabulary or attempt to recycle their own and their interlocutor's words. Novice Mid speakers may be understood with difficulty even by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives. When called on to handle topics and perform functions associated with the Intermediate level, they frequently resort to repetition, words from their native language, or silence.</p>

<p>Novice-hi</p>	<p>Speakers at the Novice High sublevel are able to handle a variety of tasks pertaining to the Intermediate level, but are unable to sustain performance at that level. They are able to manage successfully a number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Conversation is restricted to a few of the predictable topics necessary for survival in the target language culture, such as basic personal information, basic objects, and a limited number of activities, preferences, and immediate needs. Novice High speakers respond to simple, direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few formulaic questions.</p> <p>Novice High speakers are able to express personal meaning by relying heavily on learned phrases or recombinations of these and what they hear from their interlocutor. Their language consists primarily of short and some times incomplete sentences in the present, and may be hesitant or inaccurate. On the other hand, since their language often consists of expansions of learned material and stock phrases, they may sometimes sound surprisingly fluent and accurate. Pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax may be strongly influenced by the first language. Frequent misunderstandings may arise but, with repetition or rephrasing, Novice High speakers can generally be understood by sympathetic interlocutors used to non-natives. When called on to handle a variety of topics and perform functions pertaining to the Intermediate level, a Novice High speaker can sometimes respond in intelligible sentences, but will not be able to sustain sentence-level discourse.</p>
<p>INTERMEDIATE general description</p>	<p>The Intermediate level is characterized by the speaker's ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ create with the language by combining and recombining learned elements, though primarily in a reactive mode</li> <li>✦ initiate, minimally sustain, and close in a simple way basic communicative tasks</li> <li>✦ ask and answer questions.</li> </ul> <p>Speakers at the Intermediate level are distinguished primarily by their ability to create with the language when talking about familiar topics related to their daily life. They are able to recombine learned material in order to express personal meaning. Intermediate-level speakers can ask simple questions and can handle a straightforward survival situation. They produce sentence-level language, ranging from discrete sentences to strings of sentences, typically in present time. Intermediate-level speakers are understood by interlocutors who are accustomed to dealing with non-native learners of the language.</p>

Intermediate-low

Speakers at the Intermediate Low sublevel are able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by creating with the language in straightforward social situations. Conversation is restricted to some of the concrete exchanges and predictable topics necessary for survival in the target-language culture. These topics relate to basic personal information; for example, self and family, some daily activities and personal preferences, and some immediate needs, such as ordering food and making simple purchases. At the Intermediate Low sublevel, speakers are primarily reactive and struggle to answer direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few appropriate questions. Intermediate Low speakers manage to sustain the functions of the Intermediate level, although just barely.

Intermediate Low speakers express personal meaning by combining and recombining what they know and what they hear from their interlocutors into short statements and discrete sentences. Their responses are often filled with hesitancy and inaccuracies as they search for appropriate linguistic forms and vocabulary while attempting to give form to the message. Their speech is characterized by frequent pauses, ineffective reformulations and self-corrections. Their pronunciation, vocabulary and syntax are strongly influenced by their first language. In spite of frequent misunderstandings that may require repetition or rephrasing, Intermediate Low speakers can generally be understood by sympathetic interlocutors, particularly by those accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

Intermediate-mid

Speakers at the Intermediate Mid sublevel are able to handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Conversation is generally limited to those predictable and concrete exchanges necessary for survival in the target culture. These include personal information related to self, family, home, daily activities, interests and personal preferences, as well as physical and social needs, such as food, shopping, travel, and lodging.

Intermediate Mid speakers tend to function reactively, for example, by responding to direct questions or requests for information. However, they are capable of asking a variety of questions when necessary to obtain simple information to satisfy basic needs, such as directions, prices, and services. When called on to perform functions or handle topics at the Advanced level, they provide some information but have difficulty linking ideas, manipulating time and aspect, and using communicative strategies, such as circumlocution.

Intermediate Mid speakers are able to express personal meaning by creating with the language, in part by combining and recombining known elements and conversational input to produce responses typically consisting of sentences and strings of sentences. Their speech may contain pauses, reformulations, and self-corrections as they search for adequate vocabulary and appropriate language forms to express themselves. In spite of the limitations in their vocabulary and/or pronunciation and/or grammar and/or syntax, Intermediate Mid speakers are generally understood by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

Overall, Intermediate Mid speakers are at ease when performing Intermediate-level tasks and do so with significant quantity and quality of Intermediate-level language.

<p>Intermediate-hi</p>	<p>Intermediate High speakers are able to converse with ease and confidence when dealing with the routine tasks and social situations of the Intermediate level. They are able to handle successfully uncomplicated tasks and social situations requiring an exchange of basic information related to their work, school, recreation, particular interests, and areas of competence.</p> <p>Intermediate High speakers can handle a substantial number of tasks associated with the Advanced level, but they are unable to sustain performance of all of these tasks all of the time. Intermediate High speakers can narrate and describe in all major time frames using connected discourse of paragraph length, but not all the time. Typically, when Intermediate High speakers attempt to perform Advanced-level tasks, their speech exhibits one or more features of breakdown, such as the failure to carry out fully the narration or description in the appropriate major time frame, an inability to maintain paragraph-length discourse, or a reduction in breadth and appropriateness of vocabulary.</p> <p>Intermediate High speakers can generally be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, although interference from another language may be evident (e.g., use of code-switching, false cognates, literal translations), and a pattern of gaps in communication may occur.</p>
<p>ADVANCED general description</p>	<p>Speakers at the Advanced level engage in conversation in a clearly participatory manner in order to communicate information on autobiographical topics, as well as topics of community, national, or international interest. The topics are handled concretely by means of narration and description in the major time frames of past, present, and future. These speakers can also deal with a social situation with an unexpected complication. The language of Advanced-level speakers is abundant, the oral paragraph being the measure of Advanced-level length and discourse. Advanced-level speakers have sufficient control of basic structures and generic vocabulary to be understood by native speakers of the language, including those unaccustomed to non-native speech.</p> <p>The Advanced level is characterized by the speaker's ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ converse in a clearly participatory fashion</li> <li>✦ initiate, sustain, and bring to closure a wide variety of communicative tasks, including those that require an increased ability to convey meaning with diverse language strategies due to a complication or an unforeseen turn of events</li> <li>✦ satisfy the requirements of school and work situations</li> <li>✦ narrate and describe with paragraph-length connected discourse.</li> </ul>

Advanced-Low

Speakers at the Advanced Low sublevel are able to handle a variety of communicative tasks. They are able to participate in most informal and some formal conversations on topics related to school, home, and leisure activities. They can also speak about some topics related to employment, current events, and matters of public and community interest.

Advanced Low speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future in paragraph-length discourse with some control of aspect. In these narrations and descriptions, Advanced Low speakers combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length, although these narrations and descriptions tend to be handled separately rather than interwoven. They can handle appropriately the essential linguistic challenges presented by a complication or an unexpected turn of events.

Responses produced by Advanced Low speakers are typically not longer than a single paragraph. The speaker's dominant language may be evident in the use of false cognates, literal translations, or the oral paragraph structure of that language. At times their discourse may be minimal for the level, marked by an irregular flow, and containing noticeable self-correction. More generally, the performance of Advanced Low speakers tends to be uneven.

Advanced Low speech is typically marked by a certain grammatical roughness (e.g., inconsistent control of verb endings), but the overall performance of the Advanced-level tasks is sustained, albeit minimally. The vocabulary of Advanced Low speakers often lacks specificity. Nevertheless, Advanced Low speakers are able to use communicative strategies such as rephrasing and circumlocution.

Advanced Low speakers contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion. Their speech can be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may require some repetition or restatement. When attempting to perform functions or handle topics associated with the Superior level, the linguistic quality and quantity of their speech will deteriorate significantly.

Advanced-mid	<p>Speakers at the Advanced Mid sublevel are able to handle with ease and confidence a large number of communicative tasks. They participate actively in most informal and some formal exchanges on a variety of concrete topics relating to work, school, home, and leisure activities, as well as topics relating to events of current, public, and personal interest or individual relevance.</p> <p>Advanced Mid speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future by providing a full account, with good control of aspect. Narration and description tend to be combined and interwoven to relate relevant and supporting facts in connected, paragraph-length discourse.</p> <p>Advanced Mid speakers can handle successfully and with relative ease the linguistic challenges presented by a complication or unexpected turn of events that occurs within the context of a routine situation or communicative task with which they are otherwise familiar. Communicative strategies such as circumlocution or rephrasing are often employed for this purpose. The speech of Advanced Mid speakers performing Advanced-level tasks is marked by substantial flow. Their vocabulary is fairly extensive although primarily generic in nature, except in the case of a particular area of specialization or interest. Their discourse may still reflect the oral paragraph structure of their own language rather than that of the target language.</p> <p>Advanced Mid speakers contribute to conversations on a variety of familiar topics, dealt with concretely, with much accuracy, clarity and precision, and they convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion. They are readily understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives. When called on to perform functions or handle topics associated with the Superior level, the quality and/or quantity of their speech will generally decline.</p>
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<p>Advanced high</p>	<p>Speakers at the Advanced High sublevel perform all Advanced-level tasks with linguistic ease, confidence, and competence. They are consistently able to explain in detail and narrate fully and accurately in all time frames. In addition, Advanced High speakers handle the tasks pertaining to the Superior level but cannot sustain performance at that level across a variety of topics. They may provide a structured argument to support their opinions, and they may construct hypotheses, but patterns of error appear. They can discuss some topics abstractly, especially those relating to their particular interests and special fields of expertise, but in general, they are more comfortable discussing a variety of topics concretely.</p> <p>Advanced High speakers may demonstrate a well-developed ability to compensate for an imperfect grasp of some forms or for limitations in vocabulary by the confident use of communicative strategies, such as paraphrasing, circumlocution, and illustration. They use precise vocabulary and intonation to express meaning and often show great fluency and ease of speech. However, when called on to perform the complex tasks associated with the Superior level over a variety of topics, their language will at times break down or prove inadequate, or they may avoid the task altogether, for example, by resorting to simplification through the use of description or narration in place of argument or hypothesis.</p>
<p>SUPERIOR general description</p>	<p>The Superior level is characterized by the speaker's ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social, professional, and abstract topics</li> <li>✦ support opinions and hypothesize using native-like discourse strategies.</li> </ul>

<p>Superior</p>	<p>Speakers at the Superior level are able to communicate with accuracy and fluency in order to participate fully and effectively in conversations on a variety of topics in formal and informal settings from both concrete and abstract perspectives. They discuss their interests and special fields of competence, explain complex matters in detail, and provide lengthy and coherent narrations, all with ease, fluency, and accuracy. They present their opinions on a number of issues of interest to them, such as social and political issues, and provide structured arguments to support these opinions. They are able to construct and develop hypotheses to explore alternative possibilities. When appropriate, these speakers use extended discourse without unnaturally lengthy hesitation to make their point, even when engaged in abstract elaborations. Such discourse, while coherent, may still be influenced by language patterns other than those of the target language. Superior-level speakers employ a variety of interactive and discourse strategies, such as turn-taking and separating main ideas from supporting information through the use of syntactic, lexical, and phonetic devices.</p> <p>Speakers at the Superior level demonstrate no pattern of error in the use of basic structures, although they may make sporadic errors, particularly in low-frequency structures and in complex high-frequency structures. Such errors, if they do occur, do not distract the native interlocutor or interfere with communication.</p>
<p>DISTINGUISHED</p>	<p>Speakers at the Distinguished level are able to use language skillfully, and with accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness. They are educated and articulate users of the language. They can reflect on a wide range of global issues and highly abstract concepts in a culturally appropriate manner. Distinguished-level speakers can use persuasive and hypothetical discourse for representational purposes, allowing them to advocate a point of view that is not necessarily their own. They can tailor language to a variety of audiences by adapting their speech and register in ways that are culturally authentic.</p> <p>Speakers at the Distinguished level produce highly sophisticated and tightly organized extended discourse. At the same time, they can speak succinctly, often using cultural and historical references to allow them to say less and mean more. At this level, oral discourse typically resembles written discourse.</p> <p>A non-native accent, a lack of a native-like economy of expression, a limited control of deeply embedded cultural references, and/or an occasional isolated language error may still be present at this level.</p>

## ACTFL proficiency guidelines: **Writing**

for writing samples, go to: <http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/writing>

NOVICE general description	Writers at the Novice level are characterized by the ability to produce lists and notes, primarily by writing words and phrases. They can provide limited formulaic information on simple forms and documents. These writers can reproduce practiced material to convey the most simple messages. In addition, they can transcribe familiar words or phrases, copy letters of the alphabet or syllables of a syllabary, or reproduce basic characters with some accuracy.
Novice-low	Writers at the Novice Low sublevel are able to copy or transcribe familiar words or phrases, form letters in an alphabetic system, and copy and produce isolated, basic strokes in languages that use syllabaries or characters. Given adequate time and familiar cues, they can reproduce from memory a very limited number of isolated words or familiar phrases, but errors are to be expected.
Novice-mid	Writers at the Novice Mid sublevel can reproduce from memory a modest number of words and phrases in context. They can supply limited information on simple forms and documents, and other basic biographical information, such as names, numbers, and nationality. Novice Mid writers exhibit a high degree of accuracy when writing on well-practiced, familiar topics using limited formulaic language. With less familiar topics, there is a marked decrease in accuracy. Errors in spelling or in the representation of symbols may be frequent. There is little evidence of functional writing skills. At this level, the writing may be difficult to understand even by those accustomed to non-native writers.
Novice-hi	Writers at the Novice High sublevel are able to meet limited basic practical writing needs using lists, short messages, postcards, and simple notes. They are able to express themselves within the context in which the language was learned, relying mainly on practiced material. Their writing is focused on common elements of daily life. Novice High writers are able to recombine learned vocabulary and structures to create simple sentences on very familiar topics, but are not able to sustain sentence-level writing all the time. Due to inadequate vocabulary and/or grammar, writing at this level may only partially communicate the intentions of the writer. Novice High writing is often comprehensible to natives used to the writing of non-natives, but gaps in comprehension may occur.

<p>INTERMEDIATE general description</p>	<p>Writers at the Intermediate level are characterized by the ability to meet practical writing needs, such as simple messages and letters, requests for information, and notes. In addition, they can ask and respond to simple questions in writing. These writers can create with the language and communicate simple facts and ideas in a series of loosely connected sentences on topics of personal interest and social needs. They write primarily in present time. At this level, writers use basic vocabulary and structures to express meaning that is comprehensible to those accustomed to the writing of non-natives.</p>
<p>Intermediate-low</p>	<p>Writers at the Intermediate Low sublevel are able to meet some limited practical writing needs. They can create statements and formulate questions based on familiar material. Most sentences are recombinations of learned vocabulary and structures. These are short and simple conversational-style sentences with basic word order. They are written almost exclusively in present time. Writing tends to consist of a few simple sentences, often with repetitive structure. Topics are tied to highly predictable content areas and personal information. Vocabulary is adequate to express elementary needs. There may be basic errors in grammar, word choice, punctuation, spelling, and in the formation and use of non-alphabetic symbols. Their writing is understood by natives used to the writing of non-natives, although additional effort may be required. When Intermediate Low writers attempt to perform writing tasks at the Advanced level, their writing will deteriorate significantly and their message may be left incomplete.</p>
<p>Intermediate-mid</p>	<p>Writers at the Intermediate Mid sublevel are able to meet a number of practical writing needs. They can write short, simple communications, compositions, and requests for information in loosely connected texts about personal preferences, daily routines, common events, and other personal topics. Their writing is framed in present time but may contain references to other time frames. The writing style closely resembles oral discourse. Writers at the Intermediate Mid sublevel show evidence of control of basic sentence structure and verb forms. This writing is best defined as a collection of discrete sentences and/or questions loosely strung together. There is little evidence of deliberate organization. Intermediate Mid writers can be understood readily by natives used to the writing of non-natives. When Intermediate Mid writers attempt Advanced-level writing tasks, the quality and/or quantity of their writing declines and the message may be unclear.</p>

Intermediate-hi	<p>Writers at the Intermediate High sublevel are able to meet all practical writing needs of the Intermediate level. Additionally, they can write compositions and simple summaries related to work and/or school experiences. They can narrate and describe in different time frames when writing about everyday events and situations. These narrations and descriptions are often, but not always, of paragraph length, and they typically contain some evidence of breakdown in one or more features of the Advanced level. For example, these writers may be inconsistent in the use of appropriate major time markers, resulting in a loss of clarity. The vocabulary, grammar and style of Intermediate High writers essentially correspond to those of the spoken language. Intermediate High writing, even with numerous and perhaps significant errors, is generally comprehensible to natives not used to the writing of non-natives, but there are likely to be gaps in comprehension.</p>
ADVANCED general description	<p>Writers at the Advanced level are characterized by the ability to write routine informal and some formal correspondence, as well as narratives, descriptions, and summaries of a factual nature. They can narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future, using paraphrasing and elaboration to provide clarity. Advanced-level writers produce connected discourse of paragraph length and structure. At this level, writers show good control of the most frequently used structures and generic vocabulary, allowing them to be understood by those unaccustomed to the writing of non-natives.</p>
Advanced-low	<p>Writers at the Advanced Low sublevel are able to meet basic work and/or academic writing needs. They demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in major time frames with some control of aspect. They are able to compose simple summaries on familiar topics. Advanced Low writers are able to combine and link sentences into texts of paragraph length and structure. Their writing, while adequate to satisfy the criteria of the Advanced level, may not be substantive. Writers at the Advanced Low sublevel demonstrate the ability to incorporate a limited number of cohesive devices, and may resort to some redundancy and awkward repetition. They rely on patterns of oral discourse and the writing style of their first language. These writers demonstrate minimal control of common structures and vocabulary associated with the Advanced level. Their writing is understood by natives not accustomed to the writing of non-natives, although some additional effort may be required in the reading of the text. When attempting to perform functions at the Superior level, their writing will deteriorate significantly.</p>

Advanced-mid	<p>Writers at the Advanced Mid sublevel are able to meet a range of work and/or academic writing needs. They demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe with detail in all major time frames with good control of aspect. They are able to write straightforward summaries on topics of general interest. Their writing exhibits a variety of cohesive devices in texts up to several paragraphs in length. There is good control of the most frequently used target-language syntactic structures and a range of general vocabulary. Most often, thoughts are expressed clearly and supported by some elaboration. This writing incorporates organizational features both of the target language and the writer's first language and may at times resemble oral discourse. Writing at the Advanced Mid sublevel is understood readily by natives not used to the writing of non-natives. When called on to perform functions or to treat issues at the Superior level, Advanced-Mid writers will manifest a decline in the quality and/or quantity of their writing.</p>
Advanced-hi	<p>Writers at the Advanced High sublevel are able to write about a variety of topics with significant precision and detail. They can handle informal and formal correspondence according to appropriate conventions. They can write summaries and reports of a factual nature. They can also write extensively about topics relating to particular interests and special areas of competence, although their writing tends to emphasize the concrete aspects of such topics. Advanced High writers can narrate and describe in the major time frames, with solid control of aspect. In addition, they are able to demonstrate the ability to handle writing tasks associated with the Superior level, such as developing arguments and constructing hypotheses, but are not able to do this all of the time; they cannot produce Superior-level writing consistently across a variety of topics treated abstractly or generally. They have good control of a range of grammatical structures and a fairly wide general vocabulary. When writing at the Advanced level, they often show remarkable ease of expression, but under the demands of Superior-level writing tasks, patterns of error appear. The linguistic limitations of Advanced High writing may occasionally distract the native reader from the message.</p>

Superior	<p>Writers at the Superior level are able to produce most kinds of formal and informal correspondence, in-depth summaries, reports, and research papers on a variety of social, academic, and professional topics. Their treatment of these issues moves beyond the concrete to the abstract.</p> <p>Writers at the Superior level demonstrate the ability to explain complex matters, and to present and support opinions by developing cogent arguments and hypotheses. Their treatment of the topic is enhanced by the effective use of structure, lexicon, and writing protocols. They organize and prioritize ideas to convey to the reader what is significant. The relationship among ideas is consistently clear, due to organizational and developmental principles (e.g., cause and effect, comparison, chronology). These writers are capable of extended treatment of a topic which typically requires at least a series of paragraphs, but can extend to a number of pages.</p> <p>Writers at the Superior level demonstrate a high degree of control of grammar and syntax, of both general and specialized/ professional vocabulary, of spelling or symbol production, of cohesive devices, and of punctuation. Their vocabulary is precise and varied. Writers at this level direct their writing to their audiences; their writing fluency eases the reader's task.</p> <p>Writers at the Superior level do not typically control target-language cultural, organizational, or stylistic patterns. At the Superior level, writers demonstrate no pattern of error; however, occasional errors may occur, particularly in low-frequency structures. When present, these errors do not interfere with comprehension, and they rarely distract the native reader.</p>
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<p>Distinguished</p>	<p>Writers at the Distinguished level can carry out formal writing tasks such as official correspondence, position papers, and journal articles. They can write analytically on professional, academic, and societal issues. In addition, Distinguished-level writers are able to address world issues in a highly conceptualized fashion.</p> <p>These writers can use persuasive and hypothetical discourse as representational techniques, allowing them to advocate a position that is not necessarily their own. They are also able to communicate subtlety and nuance. Distinguished-level writing is sophisticated and is directed to sophisticated readers. Writers at this level write to their audience; they tailor their language to their readers.</p> <p>Distinguished-level writing is dense and complex; yet, it is characterized by an economy of expression. The writing is skillfully crafted and is organized in a way that reflects target-culture thought patterns. At the Distinguished level, length is not a determining factor. Distinguished-level texts can be as short as a poem or as long as a treatise.</p> <p>Writers at the Distinguished level demonstrate control of complex lexical, grammatical, syntactic, and stylistic features of the language. Discourse structure and punctuation are used strategically, not only to organize meaning but also to enhance it. Conventions are generally appropriate to the text modality and the target culture.</p>
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<p><b>ACTFL proficiency guidelines: Listening</b>  for listening samples, go to: <a href="http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/listening">http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/listening</a></p>	
<p>Novice  general description</p>	<p>At the Novice level, listeners can understand key words, true aural cognates, and formulaic expressions that are highly contextualized and highly predictable, such as those found in introductions and basic courtesies.</p> <p>Novice-level listeners understand words and phrases from simple questions, statements, and high-frequency commands. They typically require repetition, rephrasing and/or a slowed rate of speech for comprehension. They rely heavily on extralinguistic support to derive meaning.</p> <p>Novice-level listeners are most accurate when they are able to recognize speech that they can anticipate. In this way, these listeners tend to recognize rather than truly comprehend. Their listening is largely dependent on factors other than the message itself.</p>



Novice-low	At the Novice Low sublevel, listeners are able occasionally to recognize isolated words or very high-frequency phrases when those are strongly supported by context. These listeners show virtually no comprehension of any kind of spoken message, not even within the most basic personal and social contexts.
Novice-mid	At the Novice Mid sublevel, listeners can recognize and begin to understand a number of high-frequency, highly contextualized words and phrases including aural cognates and borrowed words. Typically, they understand little more than one phrase at a time, and repetition may be required.
Novice-hi	At the Novice High sublevel, listeners are often but not always able to understand information from sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in basic personal and social contexts where there is contextual or extralinguistic support, though comprehension may often be very uneven. They are able to understand speech dealing with areas of practical need such as highly standardized messages, phrases, or instructions, if the vocabulary has been learned.
Intermediate general description	<p>At the Intermediate level, listeners can understand information conveyed in simple, sentence-length speech on familiar or everyday topics. They are generally able to comprehend one utterance at a time while engaged in face-to-face conversations or in routine listening tasks such as understanding highly contextualized messages, straightforward announcements, or simple instructions and directions. Listeners rely heavily on redundancy, restatement, paraphrasing, and contextual clues.</p> <p>Intermediate-level listeners understand speech that conveys basic information. This speech is simple, minimally connected, and contains high-frequency vocabulary.</p> <p>Intermediate-level listeners are most accurate in their comprehension when getting meaning from simple, straightforward speech. They are able to comprehend messages found in highly familiar everyday contexts. Intermediate listeners require a controlled listening environment where they hear what they may expect to hear.</p>
Intermediate-low	At the Intermediate Low sublevel, listeners are able to understand some information from sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in basic personal and social contexts, though comprehension is often uneven. At the Intermediate Low sublevel, listeners show little or no comprehension of oral texts typically understood by Advanced-level listeners.

Intermediate-mid	<p>At the Intermediate Mid sublevel, listeners are able to understand simple, sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in a variety of basic personal and social contexts. Comprehension is most often accurate with highly familiar and predictable topics although a few misunderstandings may occur. Intermediate Mid listeners may get some meaning from oral texts typically understood by Advanced-level listeners.</p>
Intermediate-hi	<p>At the Intermediate High sublevel, listeners are able to understand, with ease and confidence, simple sentence-length speech in basic personal and social contexts. They can derive substantial meaning from some connected texts typically understood by Advanced-level listeners although there often will be gaps in understanding due to a limited knowledge of the vocabulary and structures of the spoken language.</p>
Advanced general description	<p>At the Advanced level, listeners can understand the main ideas and most supporting details in connected discourse on a variety of general interest topics, such as news stories, explanations, instructions, anecdotes, or travelogue descriptions. Listeners are able to compensate for limitations in their lexical and structural control of the language by using real-world knowledge and contextual clues. Listeners may also derive some meaning from oral texts at higher levels if they possess significant familiarity with the topic or context.</p> <p>Advanced-level listeners understand speech that is authentic and connected. This speech is lexically and structurally uncomplicated. The discourse is straightforward and is generally organized in a clear and predictable way.</p> <p>Advanced-level listeners demonstrate the ability to comprehend language on a range of topics of general interest. They have sufficient knowledge of language structure to understand basic time-frame references. Nevertheless, their understanding is most often limited to concrete, conventional discourse.</p>
Advanced low	<p>At the Advanced Low sublevel, listeners are able to understand short conventional narrative and descriptive texts with a clear underlying structure though their comprehension may be uneven. The listener understands the main facts and some supporting details. Comprehension may often derive primarily from situational and subject-matter knowledge.</p>
Advanced mid	<p>At the Advanced Mid sublevel, listeners are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts, such as expanded descriptions of persons, places, and things, and narrations about past, present, and future events. The speech is predominantly in familiar target-language patterns. Listeners understand the main facts and many supporting details. Comprehension derives not only from situational and subject-matter knowledge, but also from an increasing overall facility with the language itself.</p>

Advanced high	<p>At the Advanced High sublevel, listeners are able to understand, with ease and confidence, conventional narrative and descriptive texts of any length as well as complex factual material such as summaries or reports. They are typically able to follow some of the essential points of more complex or argumentative speech in areas of special interest or knowledge. In addition, they are able to derive some meaning from oral texts that deal with unfamiliar topics or situations. At the Advanced High sublevel, listeners are able to comprehend the facts presented in oral discourse and are often able to recognize speaker-intended inferences. Nevertheless, there are likely to be gaps in comprehension of complex texts dealing with issues treated abstractly that are typically understood by Superior-level listeners.</p>
Superior	<p>At the Superior level, listeners are able to understand speech in a standard dialect on a wide range of familiar and less familiar topics. They can follow linguistically complex extended discourse such as that found in academic and professional settings, lectures, speeches, and reports. Comprehension is no longer limited to the listener's familiarity with subject matter, but also comes from a command of the language that is supported by a broad vocabulary, an understanding of more complex structures and linguistic experience within the target culture. Superior listeners can understand not only what is said, but sometimes what is left unsaid; that is, they can make inferences.</p> <p>Superior-level listeners understand speech that typically uses precise, specialized vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. This speech often deals abstractly with topics in a way that is appropriate for academic and professional audiences. It can be reasoned and can contain cultural references.</p>

<p>Distinguished</p>	<p>At the Distinguished level, listeners can understand a wide variety of forms, styles, and registers of speech on highly specialized topics in language that is tailored to different audiences. Listeners at the Distinguished level can understand language such as that found in classical theater, art films, professional symposia, academic debates, public policy statements, literary readings, and most jokes and puns. They are able to comprehend implicit and inferred information, tone, and point of view, and can follow highly persuasive arguments. They are able to understand unpredictable turns of thought related to sophisticated topics. In addition, their listening ability is enhanced by a broad and deep understanding of cultural references and allusions. Listeners at the Distinguished level are able to appreciate the richness of the spoken language.</p> <p>Distinguished-level listeners understand speech that can be highly abstract, highly technical, or both, as well as speech that contains very precise, often low-frequency vocabulary and complex rhetorical structures. At this level, listeners comprehend oral discourse that is lengthy and dense, structurally complex, rich in cultural reference, idiomatic and colloquial. In addition, listeners at this level can understand information that is subtle or highly specialized, as well as the full cultural significance of very short texts with little or no linguistic redundancy.</p> <p>Distinguished-level listeners comprehend language from within the cultural framework and are able to understand a speaker's use of nuance and subtlety. However, they may still have difficulty fully understanding certain dialects and nonstandard varieties of the language.</p>
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<p><b>ACTFL proficiency guidelines: Reading</b>  <b>for reading samples, go to: <a href="http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/reading">http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/reading</a></b></p>	
<p>Novice general description</p>	<p>At the Novice level, readers can understand key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases that are highly contextualized.</p> <p>Novice-level readers are able to get a limited amount of information from highly predictable texts in which the topic or context is very familiar, such as a hotel bill, a credit card receipt or a weather map. Readers at the Novice level may rely heavily on their own background knowledge and extralinguistic support (such as the imagery on the weather map or the format of a credit card bill) to derive meaning.</p> <p>Readers at the Novice level are best able to understand a text when they are able to anticipate the information in the text. At the Novice level, recognition of key words, cognates, and formulaic phrases makes comprehension possible.</p>

Novice-low	At the Novice Low sublevel, readers are able to recognize a limited number of letters, symbols or characters. They are occasionally able to identify high-frequency words and/or phrases when strongly supported by context.
Novice-mid	At the Novice Mid sublevel, readers are able to recognize the letters or symbols of an alphabetic or syllabic writing system or a limited number of characters in a character-based language. They can identify a number of highly contextualized words and phrases including cognates and borrowed words but rarely understand material that exceeds a single phrase. Rereading is often required.
Novice-hi	At the Novice High sublevel, readers can understand, fully and with relative ease, key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases across a range of highly contextualized texts. Where vocabulary has been learned, they can understand predictable language and messages such as those found on train schedules, roadmaps, and street signs. Readers at the Novice High sublevel are typically able to derive meaning from short, non-complex texts that convey basic information for which there is contextual or extralinguistic support.
Intermediate general description	<p>At the Intermediate level, readers can understand information conveyed in simple, predictable, loosely connected texts. Readers rely heavily on contextual clues. They can most easily understand information if the format of the text is familiar, such as in a weather report or a social announcement.</p> <p>Intermediate-level readers are able to understand texts that convey basic information such as that found in announcements, notices, and online bulletin boards and forums. These texts are non-complex and have a predictable pattern of presentation. The discourse is minimally connected and primarily organized in individual sentences and strings of sentences containing predominantly high-frequency vocabulary.</p> <p>Intermediate-level readers are most accurate when getting meaning from simple, straightforward texts. They are able to understand messages found in highly familiar, everyday contexts. At this level, readers may not fully understand texts that are detailed or those texts in which knowledge of language structures is essential in order to understand sequencing, time frame, and chronology.</p>
Intermediate-low	At the Intermediate Low sublevel, readers are able to understand some information from the simplest connected texts dealing with a limited number of personal and social needs, although there may be frequent misunderstandings. Readers at this level will be challenged to derive meaning from connected texts of any length.

Intermediate-mid	At the Intermediate Mid sublevel, readers are able to understand short, non-complex texts that convey basic information and deal with basic personal and social topics to which the reader brings personal interest or knowledge, although some misunderstandings may occur. Readers at this level may get some meaning from short connected texts featuring description and narration, dealing with familiar topics.
Intermediate-hi	At the Intermediate High sublevel, readers are able to understand fully and with ease short, non-complex texts that convey basic information and deal with personal and social topics to which the reader brings personal interest or knowledge. These readers are also able to understand some connected texts featuring description and narration although there will be occasional gaps in understanding due to a limited knowledge of the vocabulary, structures, and writing conventions of the language.
Advanced general description	<p>At the Advanced level, readers can understand the main idea and supporting details of authentic narrative and descriptive texts. Readers are able to compensate for limitations in their lexical and structural knowledge by using contextual clues. Comprehension is likewise supported by knowledge of the conventions of the language (e.g., noun/adjective agreement, verb placement, etc.). When familiar with the subject matter, Advanced-level readers are also able to derive some meaning from straightforward argumentative texts (e.g., recognizing the main argument).</p> <p>Advanced-level readers are able to understand texts that have a clear and predictable structure. For the most part, the prose is uncomplicated and the subject matter pertains to real-world topics of general interest.</p> <p>Advanced-level readers demonstrate an independence in their ability to read subject matter that is new to them. They have sufficient control of standard linguistic conventions to understand sequencing, time frames and chronology. However, these readers are likely challenged by texts in which issues are treated abstractly.</p>
Advanced low	At the Advanced Low sublevel, readers are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts with a clear underlying structure though their comprehension may be uneven. These texts predominantly contain high-frequency vocabulary and structures. Readers understand the main ideas, and some supporting details. Comprehension may often derive primarily from situational and subject-matter knowledge. Readers at this level will be challenged to comprehend more complex texts.



Advanced mid	<p>At the Advanced Mid sublevel, readers are able to understand conventional narrative and descriptive texts, such as expanded descriptions of persons, places, and things and narrations about past, present, and future events. These texts reflect the standard linguistic conventions of the written form of the language in such a way that readers can predict what they are going to read. Readers understand the main ideas, facts, and many supporting details. Comprehension derives not only from situational and subject-matter knowledge but also from knowledge of the language itself. Readers at this level may derive some meaning from texts that are structurally and/or conceptually more complex.</p>
Advanced high	<p>Able to follow essential points of written discourse at the At the Advanced High sublevel, readers are able to understand, fully and with ease, conventional narrative and descriptive texts of any length as well as more complex factual material. They are able to follow some of the essential points of argumentative texts in areas of special interest or knowledge. In addition, they are able to understand parts of texts that deal with unfamiliar topics or situations. These readers are able to go beyond comprehension of the facts in a text, and to begin to recognize author-intended inferences. An emerging awareness of the aesthetic properties of language and of its literary styles permits comprehension of a wide variety of texts. Misunderstandings may occur when reading texts that are structurally and/or conceptually more complex.</p>
Superior	<p>At the Superior Level, readers are able to understand texts from many genres dealing with a wide range of subjects, both familiar and unfamiliar. Comprehension is no longer limited to the reader's familiarity with subject matter, but also comes from a command of the language that is supported by a broad vocabulary, an understanding of complex structures and knowledge of the target culture. Readers at the Superior level can draw inferences from textual and extralinguistic clues.</p> <p>Superior-level readers understand texts that use precise, often specialized vocabulary and complex grammatical structures. These texts feature argumentation, supported opinion, and hypothesis, and use abstract linguistic formulations as encountered in academic and professional reading. Such texts are typically reasoned and/or analytic and may frequently contain cultural references.</p> <p>Superior-level readers are able to understand lengthy texts of a professional, academic or literary nature. In addition, readers at the Superior level are generally aware of the aesthetic properties of language and of its literary styles, but may not fully understand texts in which cultural references and assumptions are deeply embedded.</p>

Distinguished

At the Distinguished level, readers can understand a wide variety of texts from many genres including professional, technical, academic, and literary. These texts are characterized by one or more of the following: a high level of abstraction, precision or uniqueness of vocabulary; density of information; cultural reference; or complexity of structure. Readers are able to comprehend implicit and inferred information, tone, and point of view and can follow highly persuasive arguments. They are able to understand unpredictable turns of thought related to sophisticated topics.

Readers at the Distinguished level are able to understand writing tailored to specific audiences as well as a number of historical, regional, and colloquial variations of the language. These readers are able to appreciate the richness of written language. Distinguished-level readers understand and appreciate texts that use highly precise, low-frequency vocabulary as well as complex rhetorical structures to convey subtle or highly specialized information. Such texts are typically essay length but may be excerpts from more lengthy texts.

Distinguished-level readers comprehend language from within the cultural framework and are able to understand a writer's use of nuance and subtlety. However, they may still have difficulty fully understanding certain nonstandard varieties of the written language.



























