

FUNCTIONAL TRISECTION OF ORAL PROFICIENCY LEVELS

Oral Proficiency Level	Function	Context	Accuracy
	(Tasks accomplished, attitudes expressed, tone conveyed)	(Topics, subjects areas, activities and jobs addressed)	(Acceptability, quality and accuracy of message conveyed)
5 (Superior)	Functions equivalent to an educated native speaker (ENS).	All subjects. <i>4+5 differ little here ↑</i>	Performance equivalent to an ENS. <i>but more here ↓</i>
4 (Superior)	Able to tailor language to fit audience, counsel, persuade, negotiate, represent a point of view and interpret for dignitaries.	All topics normally pertinent to professional needs.	Nearly equivalent to an ENS. Speech is extensive, precise, appropriate to every occasion with only occasional errors.
3 (Superior)	Can converse in formal and informal situations, resolve problem situations, deal with unfamiliar topics, provide explanations, describe in detail, offer supported opinions, and hypothesize.	Practical, social professional and <u>abstract</u> topics, particular interests, and special fields of competence.	Errors never interfere with understanding and rarely disturb the native speaker. Only sporadic errors in basic structures.
2 (Advanced)	Able to fully participate in casual conversations, can express facts, give instructions, describe, report, and provide narration about current, past and future activities.	Concrete topics such as own background, family, interests, work, travel, and current events.	Understandable to native speaker <u>not</u> used to dealing with foreigners sometimes miscommunicates.
1 (Intermediate)	Can create with the language, ask and answer questions, participate in short conversations.	Everyday survival topics and courtesy requirements.	Intelligible to native speaker used to dealing with foreigners.
0*	No functional ability	None.	Unintelligible.

\*Novice Level is not discussed here.

FUNCTIONS

4 (Superior)	Represents point of view Negotiates Persuades Counsels Tailors language to audience
3 (Superior)	Handles unfamiliar topics or situations Hypothesizes Provides supported opinion
2 (Advanced)	Gets into, through and out of survival situations with a complication Narrates Describes
1 (Intermediate)	Gets into, through and out of survival situations simply Asks questions Answers questions Creates
0+ (Novice High)	Communicates with memorized material
0 (0, Novice Low, Novice Mid)	Has no functional ability

CONTEXT/CONTENT

4  (Superior)	All nontechnical situations  Any conversation within the range of personal or professional experiences  All topics normally pertinent to professional needs and social of a general nature
3  (Superior)	Expression and defense of opinions about current events and similar topics  Most formal and informal conversations  Practical, social, professional and <u>abstract</u> topics  Particular interests and special fields of competence
2  (Advanced)	Recreational activities  Limited work requirements  Most social situations including introductions  Concrete topics such as own background, family and interests, work, travel and current events
1  (Intermediate)	Simple question-and-answer situations  Familiar topics within scope of very limited language experience  Routine travel needs  Minimum courtesy requirements  Everyday survival topics
0+  (Novice High)	Basic objects Weekdays  Colors Months  Clothing Day's date  Family members Time  Weather
0  (Novice Low, Novice Mid)	Some of the 0+ subject areas (above)

4 (Superior)	Only occasional unpatterned errors Nearly perfect grammar Errors of grammar quite rare
3 (Superior)	Occasional errors in low-frequency structures Occasional errors in the most complex frequent structures Only sporadic errors in basic structures Errors never interfere with understanding and rarely disturb the native speaker Control of grammar good
2 (Advanced)	Joining sentences in limited discourse Good control of morphology of the language (in inflected languages) and of the most frequently used syntactic structures Elementary constructions usually handled quite accurately, but does not have a thorough or confident control of grammar Some miscommunication Understandable to a native speaker not used to dealing with foreigners
1 (Intermediate)	Normally errors made even in constructions which are quite simple and common Errors in pronunciation and grammar frequent Intelligible to a native speaker used to dealing with foreigners
0 (Novice)	No functional ability (some intelligibility expected)