

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 4	Ability to tailor language to specific audience, persuade, negotiate. Deal with nuance and subtlety.	<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
Superior	3	Discuss topics extensively, support opinions, hypothesize. Deal with linguistically unfamiliar situation	<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+	Narrate and describe in past, present and future and deal effectively with an unanticipated complication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physician, Military Linguist, Senior Consultant, Human Resources Personnel, Financial Broker, Translation Officer, Marketing Manager, Communications Consultant. 	<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	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraud Specialist, Account Executive, Court Stenographer /Interpreter, Benefits Specialist, Technical Service Agent, Collection Representative, Estimating Coordinator 	
Advanced Low			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer Service Agent, Social Worker, Claims Processor, K-12 Language Teacher, Police Officer, Maintenance Administrator, Billing Clerk, Legal Secretary, Legal Receptionist 	
Intermediate High	1+	Create with language, initiate, maintain and bring to a close simple conversations by asking and responding to simple questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto Inspector, Aviation Personnel, Missionary, Tour guide 	<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	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cashier, Sales clerk (highly predictable contexts) 	
Intermediate Low			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receptionist, Housekeeping Staff. 	
Novice High Novice Mid Novice Low	0+ 0	Communicate minimally with formulaic and rote utterances, lists and phrases		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L2 learners after 2 years of high school language study

View the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 at <http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/>

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