

SPEAKING PROFICIENCY – BASE & PLUS LEVELS

*Key Features**

Level	Tasks / Functions <i>What a person can do with the language (tasks accomplished, attitudes expressed, tones conveyed)</i>	Content / Topics <i>What a person can talk about (subject areas, activities and jobs addressed; settings)</i>	Accuracy <i>How well a person can use the language (acceptability, quality and correctness of message conveyed)</i>	Text produced <i>(length and organization of utterance; kinds of discourse)</i>
0	No functional ability.	None or isolated words.	Unintelligible.	Random words and phrases.
0+	Can make short utterances and ask very simple questions using memorized material and set expressions.	Immediate survival needs such as greetings, brief personal data, numbers, time expressions, common objects.	Understandable with difficulty even to a native speaker used to dealing with foreigners.	Memorized words and short phrases.
1	Can create sentences; begin, maintain, and close short conversations by asking and answering simple questions; satisfy simple daily needs; resolve basic situations.	Everyday survival topics and courtesy requirements.	Intelligible with some effort to a native speaker used to dealing with foreigners; often miscommunicates.	Discrete sentences.
1+	Able to participate in predictable conversations about all survival needs and limited social demands; shows limited/inconsistent ability to describe, narrate, give instructions.	Basic needs, own background, family, interests, travel, and simple work-related matters.	Faulty but comprehensible to a native speaker used to dealing with foreigners.	Strings of related sentences.
2	Can describe people, places, and things; narrate current, past and future activities in full paragraphs; state facts; give instructions or directions; ask and answer questions in the workplace; deal with non-routine daily situations.	Concrete topics such as own background, family, interests, work, travel, and current events.	Understandable to a native speaker <i>not</i> used to dealing with foreigners; sometimes miscommunicates.	Full paragraphs, minimally cohesive.
2+	Able to communicate in many informal and formal conversations; uses language effectively to describe, narrate, report facts, give detailed instructions and directions, handle unfamiliar situations; uses it less effectively to support opinions, clarify points, answer objections.	Practical, social, everyday professional topics, particular interests, special fields of competence, and to some extent abstract topics.	Communicates relatively well with native speakers not used to dealing with foreigners. Speech is usually appropriate to the situation, with occasional errors in vocabulary, more complex structures, or pronunciation.	Discourse beyond the paragraph level.
3	Can converse in most formal and informal situations; discuss abstract topics; support opinions; hypothesize; deal with unfamiliar topics and situations; describe in detail; clarify points.	Practical, social, professional and abstract topics, particular interests, and special fields of competence.	Speaks readily, with only sporadic non-patterned errors in basic structures. Errors almost never interfere with understanding and rarely disturb the native speaker.	Extended discourse.

* See Appendix A for the full Plus Level Descriptors for all four skills