

Novice Low

Novice Mid

Novice High

Intermedicate

Low

Intermediate

Mid

Intermedicate

High

Advanced

Low

Speakers at this level 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.

Speakers at this level 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.

Discourses at this level 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 these speakers tends to be uneven.

Speech at this level can be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may require some repetition or restatement.

Speakers at this level can narrate and describe in all major time frames using connected discourse of paragraph length, but not all the time.

Speakers at this level 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.

Writing:

Writers at this level 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.

Writers at this level are able to combine and link sentences into texts of paragraph length and structure. Their writing may not be substantive.

Writers at this level 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.

Writing at this level 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.

Writers at this level can write compositions and simple summaries related to work and/or school experiences.

Writers at this level 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. For example, these writers may be inconsistent in the use of appropriate major time markers, resulting in a loss of clarity.

This level of 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.