

How to Read the Oral/Signed Communication Benchmarks

The oral/signed communication benchmarks described on the following pages are based on four criteria: Content, Function, Text Type, and Accuracy.

- **Content** refers to what one can talk about. Students at lower proficiency levels will talk about simple things in their immediate environment, such as objects or people. At higher levels, students are expected to talk about activities, areas of study, and future plans.
 - **Function** describes what one can do with the language. Examples of functions are “requesting help,” “asking directions,” and “apologizing.”
 - **Text Type** is the kind of language a student can produce. At first, students are expected to use only isolated words. Later, they must progress to phrases and full sentences.
 - **Accuracy** is measured by how well a student can communicate with another person. The message must be accurate enough to be understood by a sympathetic user of the language.
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Oral/Signed Communication Benchmarks

Benchmark Level I (Novice-Low)

Content	Function	Text Type	Accuracy
On the following topics:	students should be able to...	using...	by...
Self Calendar/ Time Classroom Family Season/ Weather Pets/Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make and respond to basic greetings and introductions • Use a few basic everyday words and expressions • Identify and list words in context • Express quantity (e.g., many, few, a lot, numbers, etc.) • Respond to basic commands • Give address and telephone number 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learned words and phrases • lists of words in context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responding after no more than 2 repetitions • showing some conformity to the pronunciation system of the target language • conveying meaning that is comprehensible to a very sympathetic interlocutor, although there may be hesitations/pauses that interfere with comprehension

Benchmark Level II (Novice-Mid)

Content	Function	Text Type	Accuracy
On the following topics:	students should be able to...	using...	by...
All topics in the previous benchmark plus: Clothing Food Friends Home Leisure/ Activities Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State likes and dislikes • Express ability • Express location • Express frequency of action/event • Provide simple descriptions and evaluations (e.g., It's cold, It's red.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learned words and phrases • formulaic sentences (e.g., I like to swim; I like to dance; I like to read.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responding after no more than 2 repetitions • showing increasing conformity to the pronunciation system of the target language • conveying a message that is generally comprehensible to a sympathetic interlocutor, although there may be hesitations/pauses that interfere with comprehension

STANDARD A

Oral/Signed Communication Benchmarks

Benchmark Level V (Intermediate-Mid)

Content	Function	Text Type	Accuracy
On the following topics:	students should be able to...	using...	by...
All topics in the previous benchmarks plus: Future plans At least 2 PASS content areas 1 CAM course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask for clarification• State opinions• Narrate events in present and future• Provide detailed descriptions and evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• strings of sentences with some organization where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• responding after no more than 1 repetition for comprehension• showing some conformity to the rules of the pronunciation system of the target language• conveying a message which is comprehensible to a sympathetic interlocutor, although there may be hesitations/pauses which interfere with comprehension

