

Rating NOELLA Writing and Speaking Responses

Caution: Currently, it is possible to enter a rating only one time. There is no way to correct a mis-entry.

Normally, each student produces TWO responses for writing and TWO for speaking.

Each response is rated on TWO separate features: **Language Production** and **Comprehensibility**. These two ratings are averaged and ONE number reported for each response.

Language Production is a rating of the type of text produced. It is not a rating of quantity per se, but longer texts usually have higher ratings. For example, a longer text will usually have a variety of sentence types, evidence of ability to manage tenses, etc. A text which is only a list of words, or minimally-altered memorized (formulaic) expressions should not be rated highly not matter how long it is. (E.g. "I like chocolate, I like tacos," "There is a dog, there is cat, there is book,.....").

Comprehensibility is a rating of the quality of the text. It is assumed here that quality (in an absolute sense) tends to increase as Language Production increases. Consequently, the Comprehensibility score is expected to be the same as the Language Production Score. But in some cases, you may want to give a rating one level higher to a text that is "better than expected for this level." Also, you may want to give a rating that is one level lower to a text that is "worse than expected for this level." Do not give a Comprehensibility rating that is more than one level different from the Language Production rating. Comprehensibility is NOT primarily about accuracy, in the sense of errors in pronunciation, spelling or grammar, except to the extent that any such errors might render the meaning of the text incomprehensible.

Rating Procedure-

- 1 - Examine the full range of the scale and choose the best level for Language Production.
- 2 - Examine the level of Comprehensibility that matches the level you chose for Language Production.
- 3 - Decide whether the matching Comprehensibility level is suitable for the response. If not, move up or down ONE LEVEL ONLY on the Comprehensibility scale.

This procedure gives most weight to the Language Production rating, but allows raters to 'tweak' the average rating slightly higher or lower if the quality warrants it. For example, a response that is rated '3' (approximately Novice High) for Language Production may have a final average of 2.5, 3.0, or 3.5.

Language Production rating = 3, Comprehensibility = 4, Average = 3.5	< Higher than expected quality
Language Production rating = 3, Comprehensibility = 3, Average = 3.0	< Expected quality for level
Language Production rating = 3, Comprehensibility = 2, Average = 2.5	< Lower than expected quality

The NOELLA Online Rating Rubric

NOELLA_Rubric	
Language Production	Comprehensibility
<input type="radio"/> (7) - Exceeds Level 6.	<input type="radio"/> (7) - Exceeds Level 6.
<input type="radio"/> (6) - Emerging evidence of paragraph organization. Uses some connectors to link sentences. Uses present tense most of the time, but beginning to use other tenses.	<input type="radio"/> (6) - Good accuracy for basic sentence structures, though some errors still occur. Good comprehensibility.
<input type="radio"/> (5) - Strings of connected sentences, attempts at complex sentences, uses mostly present tense.	<input type="radio"/> (5) - Good accuracy for simple language. Limited accuracy for complex sentences. Generally comprehensible.
<input type="radio"/> (4) - Able to create strings of related statements, simple questions, and commands. Language goes beyond memorized high-frequency expressions.	<input type="radio"/> (4) - Some inaccuracies, but generally comprehensible.
<input type="radio"/> (3) - Emerging ability to create simple phrases and sentences, some signs of original language emerging. Often uses memorized expressions to create sentences.	<input type="radio"/> (3) - Good accuracy for high frequency expressions. Usually understandable to a sympathetic reader/listener.
<input type="radio"/> (2) - Some isolated words, simple phrases of 2 or 3 words, memorized expressions.	<input type="radio"/> (2) - May make frequent errors, but usually understandable to a sympathetic reader/listener.
<input type="radio"/> (1) - A few isolated words or high frequency expressions.	<input type="radio"/> (1) - Limited language control, may be difficult to understand.
<input type="radio"/> (0) - Little or no target language.	<input type="radio"/> (0) - Little target language or not comprehensible.

The rubric levels correspond approximately to ACTFL levels as follows:

7 –Levels above Intermediate-High

6 – Intermediate-High

5 – Intermediate-Mid

4 – Intermediate-Low

3 – Novice-High

2 – Novice-Mid

1 – Novice-Low

0 – ‘Non-responses’: little or no target language, inappropriate response, etc.

NOTE: Anything written in English is considered to be invisible. So, when a rater encounters a response like “trois days”, for example, instead of the French “trois jours”, you should first consider the English word “days” invisible, and then determine whether the remaining “trois” can be accepted as a meaningful (logical or plausible) response for the task at hand. Also, numbers written as digits, e.g. “3”, do not show an ability to write in the target language.

Text Feature Chart

The chart below is an attempt to operationalize the NOELLA Benchmark levels. It lists text features and indicates the level(s) which they are usually associated with.

Ratability

Not ratable if

- no sound
- no comprehensible language
- less than 2 words in target language
- response is off topic or otherwise inappropriate (violence, profanity)

Text description (Language Production)

- single word "book" or "a book"
- list of words "a book, a chair"
- phrase(s) of 2 or 3 words' red book' or 'a red book' ; number = --->
- formulaic expressions "thank you', 'good bye'
- simple sentences using memorized expressions "I like X", "I want X"
- simple sentences with few memorized expressions 'the book is red', 'the girl is playing'
- simple sentences with more than one grammatical structure
- simple sentences connected with 'and'
- elaborated sentences, with prepositional phrases, adverbial phrases
- complex sentences with subordinate clauses, more elaborate modifiers
- sentences with conjugated verbs; number = --->

NL	NM	NH	IL	IM	IH	Adv
X						
X	X					
1	2	3				
	X	X	X			
		X	X			
			X	X		
				X		
				X	X	
					X	X
						X
0-2	0-2	3-4	3-4	5-6	6+	6+

Comprehensibility

- barely comprehensible
- comprehensible to sympathetic listener/reader
- generally comprehensible
- excellent comprehensibility

NL	NM	NH	IL	IM	IH	Adv
X						
X	X	X				
X	X	X	X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X