



## Profile of Ability

### The speaker can:

Communicate information about common everyday activities, experiences, wants and needs.

### When the communication is:

- Face-to-face, very briefly on the phone or via digital media
- May be supported by gestures and visual cues
- Informal
- With one person at a time or in a small supportive group
- Encouraged occasionally by questions and prompts from a supportive listener
- In non-demanding contexts

### Demonstrating these strengths and limitations:

- Speaks in short sentences and some longer compound sentences, with clear evidence of connected discourse
- Fluency is adequate for simple conversations; speech rate is slow to normal with some pauses or hesitations
- Vocabulary is adequate for basic everyday, routine communication
- Adequate control over basic grammar structures and tenses
- Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation difficulties may impede communication

## I. Interacting with Others

- Use a range of courtesy formulas and some casual small talk in short, one-on-one or small group interactions.  
[Interlocutors are familiar and supportive.]
  - Opens and closes a short conversation.
  - Introduces 2 known people.
  - Asks and responds to questions about common, everyday routines.
  - Uses non-verbal communication (such as eye contact and nodding) to show interest and encourage conversation.
  - Uses a range of small talk phrases and expressions.
  - Indicates comprehension and communication problems verbally, if needed.
- Participate in very short, simple phone calls.  
[Phone interactions are very brief.]
  - Initiates simple phone calls.
  - Uses appropriate greetings.
  - Leaves a short, simple message with a person or on voice mail.
  - Uses appropriate closing remarks to end phone calls.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 4, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Greet a neighbour, ask about his/her health, and talk about the weather. Extend the conversation by asking questions.

Introduce a teacher or employer to a family member.

Leave a simple voice mail message for a friend, co-worker, or classmate.  
*(Hello, this is Maria. Please call me back. My number is...)*

## II. Giving Instructions

- Give a set of simple, common, routine instructions and directions to a familiar person.  
[Instructions are about 4 to 5 steps.]
  - Uses appropriate courtesy forms and structures.
  - Expresses movement and location.
  - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 4, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

### Sample Tasks

Give a short set of instructions on how to set an alarm clock, use a long-distance calling card, or print a file from a computer.

Give directions to a co-worker or classmate on how to get to the lunchroom.