



Profile of Ability

The speaker can:

Communicate with some effort in short, routine social situations, and present concrete information about needs and familiar topics of personal relevance.

When the communication is:

- Face-to-face, on the phone, or via digital media
- Informal to somewhat formal
- In familiar small groups
- In moderately demanding contexts

Demonstrating these strengths and limitations:

- Clear evidence of connected discourse
- Adequately fluent for some moderately demanding contexts; speech rate is slow to normal with some pauses and hesitations
- A range of common everyday vocabulary, which may include a limited number of idioms
- Some variety of grammatical structures, with good control of simple structures and initial control of some more complex structures.
- Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation difficulties sometimes impede communication
- Some awareness of appropriate non-verbal cues and signals

I. Interacting with Others

- Participate in basic social conversations for some everyday purposes (such as expressing feelings; making, accepting or declining invitations; and engaging in small talk).
[Limited support from interlocutors.]
 - Opens and maintains a conversation.
 - Responds to small talk.
 - Extends, accepts or declines invitations.
 - Takes turns by giving non-verbal and verbal signals.
 - Encourages conversations by using eye contact, nodding, showing interest, etc.
 - Indicates non-comprehension.
- Participate in very short phone calls.
[Communicating on the phone may be difficult.]
 - Answers the phone, greets a caller, and closes a conversation using appropriate conventions and expressions.
 - Provides simple personal information.
 - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 5, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Initiate a short, informal conversation with a friend, co-worker or classmate. Engage in small talk, compliment the person and/or respond to a compliment. End the conversation appropriately.

Invite a friend, co-worker, or classmate to lunch.

Answer the phone at work. Provide information to the caller (such as company name, hours of operation, basic information about a product or service).

II. Giving Instructions

- Give instructions and directions for everyday activities and processes.
 - Uses appropriate courtesy forms and structures.
 - Uses appropriate expressions to sequence instructions.
 - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 5, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Give directions to a home or business.

Give instructions to a new co-worker on how to use an appliance, machine, or system at work, such as a photocopier or coffee-maker, or how to transfer a call on a telephone system.

Instruct a classmate on how to register for a course.