



Profile of Ability

The speaker can:

Communicate with some confidence in routine social situations, and present concrete information in some detail about familiar topics of personal relevance.

When the communication is:

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

Demonstrating these strengths and limitations:

- Clear evidence of connected discourse
- Reasonably fluent for some moderately demanding contexts; speech rate is slow to normal with a few hesitations
- A range of everyday vocabulary, which may include some idioms and a few common cultural references
- Some variety of grammatical structures, with developing control of more complex structures
- Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation difficulties may sometimes impede communication
- Developing use of appropriate non-verbal cues and signals
- Adapts speech to reflect some degrees of formality appropriate to the group

I. Interacting with Others

- Participate in routine social conversations for some everyday purposes (such as apologies, excuses, expressing opinions, and making suggestions or arrangements).

[Limited support from interlocutors.]

- Opens, maintains and closes a conversation.
- Introduces someone to a small familiar group in a way that is appropriate to the situation and audience.
- Uses and responds to small talk.
- Encourages conversation by adding supportive comments.
- Provides appropriate apologies and explanations.
- Takes turns by interrupting appropriately.
- Indicates partial comprehension by asking clarifying questions.

- Participate in short phone calls.

[Communicating with strangers on the phone may be challenging.]

- Answers the phone, greets the caller, and closes a conversation using appropriate conventions and expressions.
- Provides information or leaves a message with 3 to 5 details.
- Clarifies and confirms information.
- Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 6, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Carry on a short, routine conversation with an employer or professor about work or school.

Introduce a guest speaker to a class.

Apologize to a co-worker for a mistake made.

Decline an invitation to a social event. Apologize and give a reason for declining.

Call to make an appointment with a professor or dentist.

II. Giving Instructions

- Give sequential instructions and directions for everyday activities and processes.

- Uses correct sequence of steps.
- Uses clear references.
- Uses sequencing intonation so that the listener can follow.
- Checks to confirm understanding.
- Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 6, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Give instructions for using a bank machine to a friend. (*Sign the cheque before you put it in the envelope.*)

Give instructions to a co-worker on what to do if the fire alarm sounds.

Give instructions to a friend on how to set up an account on a social networking site.

Give instructions to a classmate on how and where to find reference materials in the library or online.