



SELF-ASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE LISTENING PROFICIENCY

General Introduction

These Self-Assessments of foreign language ability are intended to serve as informal guides for people who have not taken a U.S. Government-sponsored test but would like to have a rough estimate of their proficiency in Speaking, Reading, and/or Listening comprehension of the language. The self-assessment questionnaires will produce an estimate of your current foreign language ability but are in no way intended to be a replacement for an official government test using the ILR Skill Level Descriptions.

To estimate your level of proficiency in one of the three skill modalities, start at the lowest level shown in the questionnaire and respond to each statement. For each statement, respond “yes” or “no.” A “yes” response means that you consistently perform the task or function described successfully. If a statement describes your ability only some of the time, or only in some contexts, you should answer “no.” If you can answer “yes” to every statement in the level, your ability is probably at least at that level. Move on to the descriptions at the next level. If you answer “no” to one or more statements at that level, then your ability is probably not at that level.

If you answer “yes” to all the statements at one level, and also have a majority of “yes” answers at the next higher level, then your proficiency may be at a “plus” level. For example, if you answer “yes” to all the statements at Level 1, but have a mixture of responses at Level 2 (with a majority of “yes” answers), your self-assessed ability may be at Level 1+.

The situations, tasks and functions indicated in the different statements are representative but not exhaustive of what an individual must be able to do to perform at the designated level.

Self Assessing Foreign Language Listening Ability:

The term *listen* as used in this self-assessment always means “*listen and understand the meaning.*” The term *text* refers to any example of language presented orally, including advertisements, weather reports, TV news, talk shows, among many others. An **authentic text** is one that was originally spoken by a native speaker of the language for other native speakers who listen.

It is not necessary to know all the words or understand all the details of the texts listed for a level, but it is necessary to perform the functional tasks described for the level at the indicated level of accuracy.

| SELF-ASSESSMENT OF LISTENING PROFICIENCY | | Yes | No |
|---|--|------------|-----------|
| L-1 | In everyday conversation with people speaking the standard dialect, I can understand speech that is slow and clear. | | |
| L-1 | I can understand basic directions and instructions, such as how to get to a local store. | | |
| L-1 | I can understand questions and answers about basic survival needs, such as meals, lodging, transportation and time. | | |
| L-1 | I can understand routine questions about me, my job, and my immediate family. I understand simple instructions, such as in very straightforward street directions. | | |
| L-1 | I can understand simple statements about a person's background and occupation. | | |
| L-1 | If I cannot understand what a speaker tells me at first, I can understand the statement after it has been rephrased or repeated slowly and clearly. | | |
| L-2 | When people are speaking the standard dialect at a normal rate, I can understand their speech when it is spoken with some repetition and rephrasing. | | |
| L-2 | I can understand speech about everyday topics, such as typical personal and family news, well-known current events, and routine situations at work. | | |
| L-2 | I can understand spoken descriptions of places, for instance the | | |

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| | geography of a country or location that is familiar. | | |
| L-2 | I can understand straightforward descriptions about current, past and future events. | | |
| L-2 | I can understand at least some details from announcements made over a loudspeaker. | | |
| L-2 | I can usually understand the main idea and basic facts from a short news report on the radio or television. | | |
| L-3 | I can accurately follow all conversations among native speakers who are speaking at a normal rate of speech. | | |
| L-3 | I rarely, if ever, have to ask speakers to paraphrase or explain what they have said. | | |
| L-3 | I can correctly infer meanings that are not directly stated. | | |
| L-3 | I can understand discussions of ideas and concepts, including proposals and speculation. | | |
| L-3 | I can understand someone's opinion and the points used to support the opinion. | | |
| L-3 | I can often, if not always, detect the attitudes and feelings of a speaker. | | |
| L-3 | I can understand speech in a professional setting, such as a lecture or a panel discussion, concerning my field of expertise or some technical subjects. | | |
| L-4 | I can understand almost all forms and styles of speech pertinent to professional needs. | | |

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| L-4 | I can fully understand all speech that involves the use of extensive and precise vocabulary, including subtle distinctions between word choices. | | |
| L-4 | I can follow arguments with unpredictable presentation, for example, in informal and formal speeches -incorporating editorial and literary material. | | |
| L-4 | I can understand language adjusted for different audiences and for different purposes. | | |
| L-4 | I can readily and accurately infer meanings and implications. | | |
| L-4 | I am able to understand the main ideas of speech in some non-standard dialects. | | |
| L-4 | I can fully understand spoken interactions among native speakers at public gatherings, such as meetings, seminars, task groups or conferences. | | |
| L-4 | I can fully understand a speech, oral report or briefing given to a group of native speakers concerning any topic directed to a general audience. | | |
| L-5 | My comprehension is fully equivalent to that of a well-educated native listener. | | |
| L-5 | I can fully understand all forms and styles of speech. This includes slang, jokes and plays on words. | | |
| L-5 | I can understand speech even when it is distorted by other noise. | | |
| L-5 | I can fully understand regional dialects, highly colloquial and idiomatic language. | | |