

NEW BRUNSWICK SECOND LANGUAGE ORAL PROFICIENCY SCALE

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTIONS

UNRATEABLE	No functional ability in the language.
NOVICE	Able to satisfy immediate needs using rehearsed phrases. No real autonomy of expression, flexibility, or spontaneity. Can ask questions or make statements with reasonable accuracy but only with memorized phrases. Vocabulary is very limited.
BASIC	Able to create with the language by combining and recombining learned elements. Can satisfy minimum courtesy requirements and maintain very simple face-to-face interaction with native speakers accustomed to dealing with second language learners. Almost every utterance contains fractured syntax and grammatical errors. Vocabulary is adequate to express most elementary needs.
BASIC PLUS	Able to initiate and maintain predictable face-to-face conversations and satisfy limited social demands. Shows some spontaneity in language production, but fluency is very uneven. There is emerging evidence of connected discourse, particularly for simple narration and/or description, but range and control of language structures are limited.
INTERMEDIATE	Able to satisfy routine social demands and limited requirements in school/work settings. Can provide information and give explanations with some degree of accuracy, but language is awkward. Can handle most common social situations, including introductions and casual conversations about events in school and community; able to provide autobiographical information in some detail. Can give directions from one place to another; can give accurate instructions in a field of personal expertise. Has a speaking vocabulary sufficient to converse simply, with some paraphrasing. Accent, though often quite faulty, is intelligible. Uses high frequency language structures accurately, but does not have a thorough or confident control of grammar. In certain situations, diction would probably distract a native speaker.
INTERMEDIATE PLUS	Able to satisfy the requirements of a broad variety of everyday, school, and work situations. Can discuss concrete topics relating to special fields of competence as well as subjects of current public interest. Normally does not have to grope for words. Often shows a significant degree of fluency and ease in speaking, yet, under pressure, may experience language breakdown. May exhibit good control of language structures, but be limited in overall language production; or, conversely, may demonstrate ample speech production, but have uneven control of structures. Some misunderstandings will still occur.
ADVANCED	Able to speak the language with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal, and in all informal conversations, on practical, social, and academic or work-related topics. Can describe in detail and narrate accurately. Can discuss abstract topics and ideas as well as events; can support opinions and hypothesize. Accent may be obvious but never interferes with understanding. Control of grammar is good and speech is fluent. Sporadic errors still occur, but they would not distract a native speaker or interfere with communication.
ADVANCED PLUS	Able to speak the language with sufficient structural and lexical accuracy that participation in conversations in all areas poses no problem. Accent may be noticeable and the speaker occasionally exhibits hesitancy which indicates some uncertainty in vocabulary or structure.
SUPERIOR	Able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels normally pertinent to personal situation (academic, social, work-related). Can understand and participate in any conversation within the range of personal experience with a high degree of fluency and precision of vocabulary. Accent is good, but the speaker would not necessarily be taken for a native speaker.