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| **Proficiency Level** | **What does this level mean?** | **How can you move to the next level?** |
| **Novice Low** | You can say a few things about yourself.  You can list, name, and identify common things with single words.  You can answer one or two of the basic kinds of questions that you have learned and practiced in class.  You can present and communicate information about yourself and some other very familiar topics using single words or memorized phrases.  Your teacher and others who are used to language learners can understand some of what you are saying. | When you answer questions, try to use more than one word and even a phrase. Practice asking questions and keep learning new words. |
| **Novice Mid** | You can say a number of things about yourself.  You can list, name, and identify everyday things with words and phrases and an occasional simple sentence.  You can ask and answer some very common and familiar questions.  You can present and communicate information about yourself and some other very familiar topics using a variety of words, phrases, and memorized expressions.  Your teacher and others who are used to language learners can understand most of what you are saying. | Practice asking more questions on more topics. Combine your words and phrases into simple sentences. Keep learning new words!  Practice lots of conversations in which you start it, keep it going, and end it; practice asking questions in order to do this. Practice saying as much as you can about yourself. Try to use as many sentences as you can. |
| **Novice High** | You can be a part of a conversation about yourself and your life.  Much of the time you can also use your language to express your own thoughts and get the things that you need.  You tend to speak in phrases and some sentences.  You can often ask and answer simple questions.  You can present and communicate basic information on familiar topics using language you have practiced using phrases and simple sentences.  Your teacher and others who are used to language learners can understand what you are saying most of the time. | Keep the conversation going by asking follow up questions on the same topic, working with your partner to figure out what you don’t understand and talking around words that you don’t know. Keep saying more about more topics. Pretend you’re in a situation where you need to get something or do something. |
| **Intermediate Low** | You can have a conversation about yourself and your life.  You can also use your language to express your own thoughts and get the things that you need.  You tend to speak in single sentences.  You can ask and answer simple questions.  You can present information and participate in conversations on most familiar topics using a series of simple sentences.  You can handle short social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering simple questions.  Your teacher and others who are used to language learners can understand what you are saying. | Jump into as many conversations as you can, especially outside of class. Once you’ve answered a question, try to add something more (another fact, thought, or even another question). *If there is a need or a way to express past or future, try to incorporate those time frames in your speaking. Use transition words.* |
| **Intermediate Mid** | You can maintain conversations about yourself and your life by asking questions and describing or telling stories.  You easily use your language to express your own thoughts.  You can get the things that you need or want even if it requires extra effort.  You speak in connected sentences.  Your teacher and others who are used to language learners readily understand you.  You can make presentations and participate in conversations on a wide variety of familiar topics using connected sentences.  You can handle short social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering a variety of questions.  You can usually say what I want to say about myself and my everyday life.  People who are not used to language learners understand what you are saying some of the time. | Try putting sentences together using words such as “but” “because” and “when”. Practice asking questions in different ways. Keep adding new information so that everything is more complete and clear. Say more about more topics.  Practice adding words to be more specific in describing things (quality, quantity, size) or to accomplish what you need (when or in what order). Think about how events unfold in a story and try to tell it. Use words like “then” “so” “afterwards” and “finally”. Ask more specific questions to get more detailed information.  Practice telling stories from beginning to end. Once you’ve told a story, go back, and add something to each part of it. Describe everything you see in your class, your neighborhood, or home and then add more detail to it. Practice having conversations about topics beyond your immediate environment. Pretend you’re in a situation where you need to do or get something and a problem arises. Practice resolving the complication. |
| **Intermediate High** | You keep the conversation going by asking questions, telling stories, describing people, place, and things, and reporting events.  You can talk about some topics beyond yourself.  You can also resolve a problem that you might encounter in your daily life.  You speak in well-connected sentences and some paragraphs.  You can make presentations in a generally organized way on school, word, and community topics, and on topics you have researched.  You can make presentations on some events and experiences in various time frames.  You can participate with ease and confidence in conversations on familiar topics.  You can handle social interactions in everyday situations, sometimes when there is an unexpected complication.  People who speak this language can understand you most of the time even if they are not used to language learners. | Practice telling more complete stories about things that are happening, happened or will happen. Describe things in a way that the person you’re talking to can form a mental picture of what you’re saying. Practice adding detail every time you can. Report and discuss events beyond your immediate environment. Imagine trying to deal with a problem and propose a variety of solutions. |
| **Advanced** | You participate fully in the conversation.  You can communicate with ease and confidence on topics of general interest and some new topics related to concrete social, academic, or work-related areas.  You are able to produce narrations and descriptions in all major time frames and you can efficiently deal with an unexpected turn of events, resolving a problem you might encounter in your daily life or while traveling abroad.  You speak in well-formed paragraphs that show organization, cohesion, and detail.  You can deliver organized presentations appropriate to my audience on a variety of topics.  You can handle a familiar situation with an unexpected complication.  You can present information about events and experiences in various time frames. | Continue developing your skills in narration and expanding your ability to deal with topics beyond the general and personal level. You might read articles about community or world issues and practice conversations in which you need to support your own opinions, discuss an issue from an abstract perspective or hypothesize. |