

FRENCH LANGUAGE ORAL CAPABILITY LEVELS

No proficiency: At this level, one possesses no ability to work or communicate in French.

Elementary level: At this level one has no real autonomy of expression. The ability to speak is limited to some memorized material on familiar topics related to work. One is able to verbalize isolated words, expressions of two or three words, and express simple, unconnected sentences. The range of vocabulary is limited and the delivery is slow and awkward. One can handle greetings, leave taking, and other expressions of courtesy. The limited vocabulary, the frequent errors, and slow delivery severely inhibit communication.

Intermediate level: At this level one possesses some ability to work in French. One shows some spontaneity in language production but the fluency is very uneven resulting in halting speech. One is able to participate in simple conversations on a one-to-one basis. The vocabulary is limited to that used in simple, non-technical, daily conversational usage. One can make and answer requests for information or directions, give simple instructions and discuss simple needs. When addressing this person the speaker may have to slow down and repeat if he/she wishes to be understood.

Advanced level: At this level one has the ability to participate in conversations and satisfy many work requirements. One can discuss work related matters with some ease and facility, expressing opinions and offering views. One is able to take part in a variety of verbal exchanges and to participate in meetings and discussion groups. However, one still needs help with handling complications and difficulties. One is generally good in either grammar or vocabulary but not in both.

Superior level: At this level one has the ability to speak the language with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social and professional topics. One is able to give verbal presentations in both formal and informal settings. One masters some idioms and specific vocabulary relevant to a variety of contexts.

FRENCH LANGUAGE WRITTEN CAPABILITY LEVELS

No proficiency: At this level one possesses no ability to write in French.

Elementary level: At this level one is able to write a few words, maybe sentences on topics related to work, maybe with the help of a dictionary. One can fill in forms, give general information such as time and location of meetings and notices of cancellation using a standard format. Vocabulary is limited to daily use with no mastery of idiomatic expressions. One has no practical communicative writing skills. One cannot produce French text.

Intermediate level: At this level one is able to write words and simple sentences. One can make and answer simple requests for information. The vocabulary is limited to that of daily general use. One often experiences problems with grammar and spelling. One is able to meet some practical elementary writing needs but cannot produce acceptable French text.

Advanced level: At this level one is able to use a variety of sentence types to express general ideas and opinions on non-specialized topics. One can write simple letters and reports required of the position. Although still hesitant, one experiences few problems with either grammar or spelling. However, the writing may resemble literal translations. Nevertheless, a sense of organization is emerging and one is beginning to sense what is stylistically and grammatically correct in French.

Superior level: At this level one is able to express oneself effectively in most formal and informal writing on practical, social and professional topics. One is able to recognize awkwardness in sentence structure and paragraphs. Errors in grammar and spelling are minor and infrequent.