

Benchmark Level	Topics	Characteristics
NOVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self • Calendar/Time • Colors/Shapes • Pets/Animals • School/Classroom • Weather/Seasons • Clothing • Food/Beverage • Family/Friends • Home • Places/Geography • Community • Daily Routines • Shopping/Stores • Leisure/Activities 	<p>Students who are reading or listening at Novice proficiency are characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance of learned phrases and basic vocabulary • Ability to recognize the purpose of basic texts • Can understand a core of simple, formulaic utterances
INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Holidays/Celebrations • Occupations/Professions • Transportation Travel/Vacations • Future plans • Culture • Contemporary Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current events • Economics • Literature • Science • Social Science • History • <i>Plus more in-depth aspects of Novice topics</i> 	<p>Students who are reading or listening at Intermediate proficiency are characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reading, ability to understand the main ideas and explicit detail in everyday language • Ability to use language knowledge to understand information in everyday materials • Can follow short conversations and announcements on common topics and answer questions about the main idea and explicitly stated details
ADVANCED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts • Politics • Religion • Math • <i>Plus more in-depth aspects of Novice and Intermediate topics</i> 	<p>Students who are reading or listening at Advanced proficiency are characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can understand and use language for straightforward informational purposes • Can understand the content of most factual, non-specialized materials intended for a general audience • Can understand the content of most spoken factual, non-specialized language