



Profile of Ability

The speaker can:

Communicate very basic personal information using a few common, familiar words and formulaic expressions, usually in response to simple questions related to immediate needs.

When the communication is:

- Short and face-to-face
- Strongly supported by gestures and visual cues
- Informal
- With one familiar person at a time
- Guided and encouraged by questions and prompts from a highly supportive listener
- In non-demanding contexts

Demonstrating these strengths and limitations:

- Speaks in isolated words or strings of 2 to 3 words, with no evidence of connected discourse
- Fluency is not adequate to sustain simple conversations; speech rate is slow with frequent pauses, hesitations and repetitions
- Vocabulary is extremely limited for basic everyday, routine communication
- Very little or no control over basic grammar structures and tenses
- Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation difficulties may significantly impede communication
- Relies heavily on gestures
- May revert to first language

I. Interacting with Others

- Use and respond to basic courtesy formulas and greetings.
[Interlocutors are familiar and supportive.]
 - Responds appropriately to common greetings, introductions, and leave-takings.
 - Uses appropriate basic courtesy formulas.
 - Indicates communication problems verbally or non-verbally.
 - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 1, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Introduce self to a new neighbour, classmate, or teacher. (*My name is Ahmed.*)

Greet the clerk at a local supermarket. (*Hello, how are you?*)

Respond to greetings, introductions and leave-takings with the appropriate expression. (*Hello. Nice to meet you. Goodbye.*)

II. Giving Instructions

- Give brief, simple, common, routine instructions to a familiar person.
[Instructions are a few words or a short phrase.]
 - Uses imperative forms and memorized stock expressions.
 - Uses appropriate courtesy words (such as *please, thank you*).
 - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 1, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Give a short instruction to a friend, co-worker, or classmate. (*Pass the salt. Close the door. Please come in. Wait! Stop! Please repeat.*)

Speaking – Benchmark 1



III. Getting Things Done

- Make and respond to simple requests related to immediate personal needs (such as asking for assistance, or for the time, a price or an amount).
 - Uses appropriate single words, phrases, memorized expressions and courtesy formulas.
 - Uses simple expressions of time.
 - Uses expressions for money, prices, and amounts.
 - Uses acceptable gestures and body language when making requests.
 - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 1, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Attract a server's attention and make a request. (*Excuse me. Coffee, please.*)

Ask for the time.

Describe amounts of money. (*I have 2 quarters. Here is 1 dime. I have 60 cents.*)

Ask for assistance (*Help me, please.*)

IV. Sharing Information

- Give basic personal information in response to direct questions from a supportive listener.
 - Answers simple questions about personal information.
 - Uses alphabet to spell out words, such as own name.
- Ask for basic personal information.
 - Asks simple questions using memorized stock phrases.
 - Demonstrates strengths and limitations typical of Speaking Benchmark 1, as listed in the Profile of Ability.

Sample Tasks

Answer 2 or 3 questions from a co-worker, classmate or neighbour about self and family.

Answer 2 or 3 personal information questions (such as name, address, and phone number) from a librarian or store clerk.