

Self checking list of speaking Proficiency

Adapted from LAMP ('Language acquisition made practical') by Miriam Davis July 2000

Please tick each task that you can perform reasonably confidently.

Level Zero Plus

- I can use more than 50 words of my new language in appropriate contexts.

Level One - Survival Proficiency

- (You are at Level One when you can adequately perform each of the following Level One language activities.)
- I can initiate conversations and use appropriate leave-takings to close conversations.
- I can make a selection from a menu and order a simple meal.
- I can ask and tell the time of day, the day of the week, and the date.
- I can ask for something needed for my daily life and work which I can't find in a shop (for e.g. where to buy paper for my printer at Yodobashi camera or similar shop.)
- I can tell someone how to get from my home to the nearest subway station, to the post. office, a restaurant or to my church.
- I can make a social introduction of someone else and also give a brief speech to introduce myself.
- I can invite someone to visit me at home and decide with them on what day, and at what time it is suitable for them to come.
- I can understand and correctly respond to questions about my marital status, nationality, occupation, age and place of birth.
- I can get the bus or train I want, buy a ticket, and get off where I intended to. Alternatively, if I rarely use public transport, I can ask my way and understand the answer when travelling by car and needing help from a passerby.
- I can use the language well enough to assist a newcomer in all of the above Level One situations.

Level One Plus

- I have a One Plus proficiency because I can do all of the Level One activities and at least three of the following Level Two activities.

- **Level Two – Limited Working Proficiency**

- (You are at Level Two when you can adequately perform each of the following Level Two activities.)
- I can give detailed information about the weather, my family, my home and my living arrangements.
- I can take and give simple messages over the telephone.
- I can give a brief autobiography and also talk about my plans and hopes.
- I can describe my most recent job or activity in some detail and also describe my present role as a language learner.
- I can describe how services are conducted in my home church(es) in my home country and how they compare or are different from those I have experienced in my host country.
- I can describe the geography, climate and national characteristics of both my home and my host countries.
- I can describe the purpose and function of the organization I represent.
- I can use Japanese in arranging meetings at church, and asking the relevant people to help as required.
- I am reasonably confident that my pronunciation does not create a barrier to my communicating effectively with people.
- I feel reasonably confident that people understand me in Japanese at least 80% of the time. I am also reasonably confident that I understand what native speakers tell me on topics like those of Level 2.

- **Level Two plus**

- I have a Two plus proficiency because I can perform adequately at least 3 of the following Level 3 tasks.

- **Level Three – Professional Working Proficiency**

- (You are at level 3 when you can adequately perform each of the following level 3 language activities.)
- I do not try to avoid any of the main grammatical features of the language..
- I now have sufficient vocabulary and grasp of grammatical structure to complete most sentences that I begin.
- I can speak at a normal rate of speech with only rare hesitations.

- I can adequately follow and contribute to a conversation between native speakers when they try to include me.
- I am able to correctly understand the gist of information given to me over the telephone.
- I can listen to a speech or discussion on a topic of interest to me and take accurate notes.
- I can speak to a group of native speakers on a professional subject and have reasonable confidence that I am communicating what I want to. E.g I can preach a sermon or give a talk at a ladies' meeting.
- I can understand opposing points of view and can politely describe and defend an organizational position or objective to an antagonist. For e.g I am able to participate actively in a deacons' meeting or church members' meeting at which important matters are being discussed.
- I could cope with a social blunder (for e.g by responding with an appropriate apology), report for e.g., a theft to the police or get appropriate help for a domestic problem (e.g by calling my landlord or the plumber.)
- I can understand the gist of two or more native speakers talking with each other, about a current event or issue.
- I could serve as an interpreter for a newcomer in most of the Level Three situations.
- I feel that I can adequately carry out the professional responsibilities of my work as a missionary in Japanese.

● **Level Three Plus**

- I have a Three Plus Proficiency because I can adequately perform at least 3 of the Level 4 language activities..

● **Level Four – Distinguished Proficiency**

- (You are at level 4 when you can adequately perform each of the following Level 4 language activities.)
- I make very few grammatical mistakes.
- I can always understand the gist of what native speakers are saying when they talk with each other.
- I can appreciate Japanese humour and language puns and can actively participate in fun and humorous situations.
- My vocabulary is generally extensive and precise enough for me to convey my meaning in professional situations. For e.g. when teaching a seeker's Bible study, preparing

someone for baptism, responding to requests for help from church members or seekers on issues of faith or of relating faith to daily life, or when running a church or activities in the church. (Consider your language proficiency in terms of **the main ministry you are involved in** i.e. if children's work then your proficiency in situations you are in with children.)

- I feel I have a good grasp of the local culture and can relate what I speak about to it.
- I can use appropriately honorifics, polite forms ('desu', 'masu') and informal language depending on whom I am speaking to and in what situation.
- I could interpret informally at church for a friend visiting from home and wanting to bring greetings to the Japanese church or a testimony.
- I feel that generally speaking I can perform in my work as a missionary as adequately in Japanese as in my mother tongue.

- **Level Four Plus**

- My vocabulary and cultural understanding are always extensive enough to enable me to communicate my precise meaning.
- People feel that I share their knowledge bank well enough to talk about and defend any of their beliefs and values.

- **Level Five – Native speaker proficiency**

- Native speakers react to me just as they do to each other – I am usually considered an 'insider'.
- I sometimes feel more at home in Japanese than in my mother tongue.
- I can do arithmetic sums in my head in Japanese without slowing down.
- I consider myself to be completely bilingual and bicultural, with equivalent ability in my native language and in Japanese.
- I consider myself to have equivalent language ability in Japanese as a native speaker of the language.