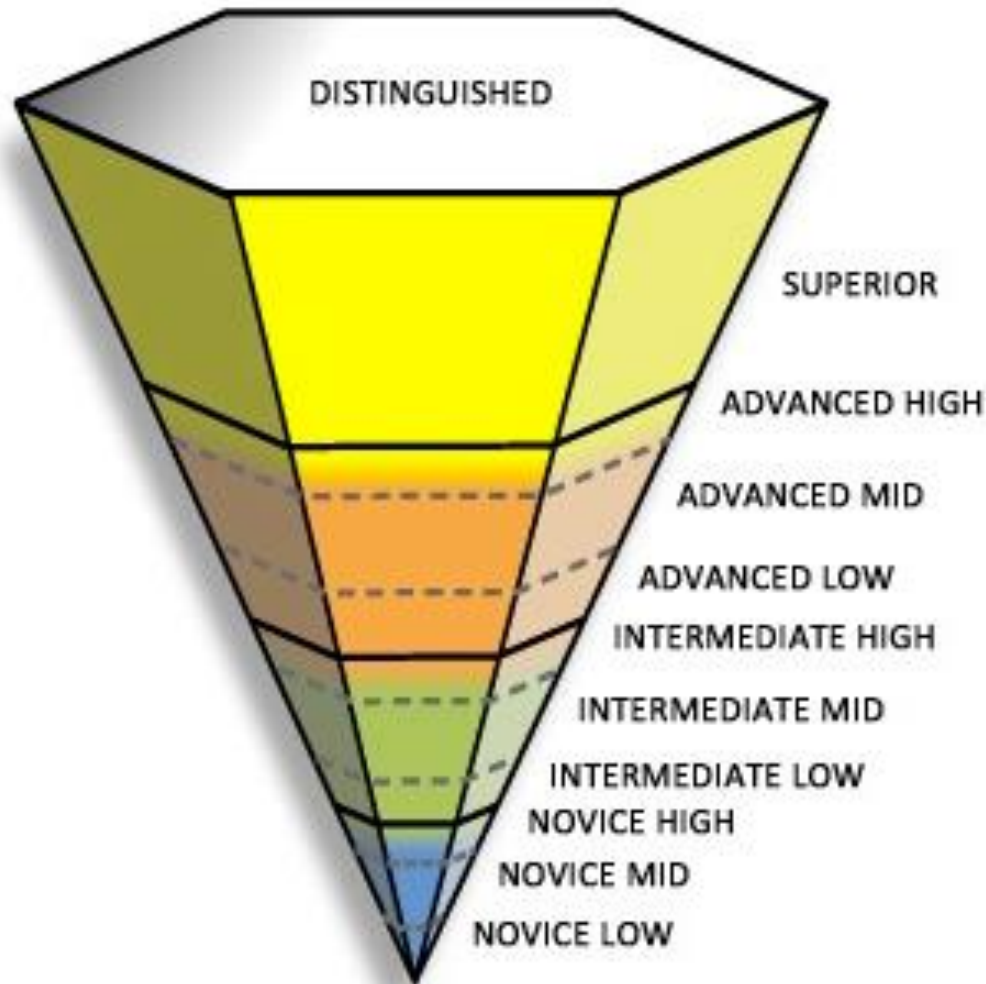


“Inverted Pyramid”: ACTFL Proficiency Scales



www.actfl.org

Assessment Criteria: Speaking Proficiency
(ACTFL, Inc. February 1989)

Major Level	Global Function/ Task	Context	Content	Accuracy	Text Type
Superior	Can discuss extensively by supporting opinions, abstracting and hypothesizing	Most formal and informal settings	Wide range of general interest topics and some special fields of interest and expertise; concrete, abstract and unfamiliar topics	Errors virtually never interfere with communication or disturb the native speaker	Extended discourse
Advanced	Can describe and narrate in major time/aspect frames	Most informal and some formal settings	Concrete and factual topics of personal and public interest	Can be understood without difficulty by speakers unaccustomed to non-native speakers	Paragraph discourse
Intermediate	Can maintain simple face-to-face conversation by asking and responding to simple questions	Some informal settings and limited number of transactional situations	Topics related to self and immediate environment	Can be understood with some repetition, by speakers accustomed to non-native speakers	Discrete sentences and strings of sentences
Novice	Can produce only formulaic utterances, lists and enumerations	Highly predictable common daily settings	Common discrete elements of daily life	May be difficult to understand, even for those accustomed to non-native speakers	Discrete words and phrases