



What is SLPI:ASL? Sign Language Proficiency Interview: ASL

Sharon Lott
ASLTE Coordinator

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What is SLPI?

- The Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI:ASL) involves a one-to-one conversation in sign language between an interviewer and candidate/interviewee. Interview content varies according to the background, job responsibilities, schooling, and other interests of each SLPI:ASL candidate/interviewee.



History

- ▶ The SLPI:ASL was adapted by Bill Newell and Frank Caccamise from the Language/Oral Proficiency Interview (L/OPI), an interview technique for assessing spoken language communication skills. Just as the L/OPI may be used to assess a variety of spoken languages the SLPI:ASL may be used to assess a variety of sign languages; for example, it is used in Kenya as SLPI:KSL, in South Africa as SLPI:SASL, and in New Zealand as SLPI:NZSL.

Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) Rating Scale^a

RATINGS

DESCRIPTORS^b

Superior Plus

Able to have a fully shared and natural conversation, with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics. All aspects of signing are native-like.

Superior

Able to have a fully shared conversation, with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics. Very broad sign language vocabulary, near native-like production and fluency, excellent use of sign language grammatical features, and excellent comprehension for normal signing rate.

Advanced Plus

Exhibits some superior level skills, but not all and not consistently.

Advanced

Able to have a generally shared conversation with good, spontaneous elaboration for both social and work topics. Broad sign language vocabulary knowledge and clear, accurate production of signs and fingerspelling at a normal/near-normal rate; occasional misproductions do not detract from conversational flow. Good use of many sign language grammatical features and comprehension good for normal signing rate.

Intermediate Plus

Exhibits some advanced level skills, but not all and not consistently.

Intermediate

Able to discuss with some confidence routine social and work topics within a conversational format with some elaboration; generally 3-to-5 sentences. Good knowledge and control of everyday/basic sign language vocabulary with some sign vocabulary errors. Fairly clear signing at a moderate signing rate with some sign misproductions. Fair use of some sign language grammatical features and fairly good comprehension for a moderate-to-normal signing rate; a few repetitions and rephrasing of questions may be needed.

Survival Plus

Exhibits some intermediate level skills, but not all and not consistently.

Survival

Able to discuss basic social and work topics with responses generally 1-to-3 sentences in length. Some knowledge of basic sign language vocabulary with many sign vocabulary and/or sign production errors. Slow-to-moderate signing rate. Basic use of a few sign language grammatical features. Fair comprehension for signing produced at a slow-to-moderate rate with some repetition and rephrasing.

Novice Plus

Exhibits some survival level skills, but not all and not consistently.

Novice

Able to provide single sign and some short phrase/sentence responses to basic questions signed at a slow-to-moderate rate with frequent repetition and rephrasing. Vocabulary primarily related to everyday work and/or social areas such as basic work-related signs, family members, basic objects, colors, numbers, names of weekdays, and time. Production and fluency characterized by many sign production errors and by a slow rate with frequent inappropriate pauses/hesitations.

No Functional Skills

(May be) Able to provide short single sign and “primarily” fingerspelled responses to some basic questions signed at a slow rate with extensive repetition and rephrasing.

^aAdapted from US Foreign Service Institute & ACTFL LPI Rating Scales by William Newell & Frank Caccamise

^bFor all SCPI rating descriptors, **first statement (in bold type) always a statement of ASL communicative functioning**, with all remaining statements (regular type) descriptors of ASL form (vocabulary, production, fluency, grammar, and comprehension).



Interview

- 1. work
 - 2. Family
 - 3. Hobby/Leisure
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Function

1. Elaboration / Length of Responses
2. Sense of Sharedness / Spontaneity



Form

- ▶ A. Candidate's Vocabulary Knowledge
- B. & C. Candidate's Production & Fluency
- D. Candidate's Use of Grammatical Features
- E. Candidate's Comprehension



Grammar

- 1. Indexing/space/body shift and eye gaze
- 2. Directionality
- 3. Facial Expression and Sign modification
- 4. Repetition of sign verb movement
- 5. Repetition of sign noun movement and vertical/horizontal sweep
- 6. Number incorporation
- 7. Listing non-dominant hand, FINISH, body shift
- 8. Sign Word Order
- 9. Classifiers
- 10. Non-manual signals

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Indexing/space/body shift and eye gaze

Indexing: used to indicate location of rooms, things in a room, persons present or not present.

Space : used to help with visualization, indicating how things, places or people are arranged.

Body shifts : usually happens when more than one person is talking, involves role play or going from one step to the next, for contrasting ideas and comparing things.

Eye gaze: when narrating, the signer looks or glances at locations or people in space.



Directionality

- ▶ **Sign verb movement directionality** for location (HOME GO-It and pronoun incorporation (TELL-me, me-HELP-them)).
 - ▶ TEACH-me
 - ▶ SHOW-them
 - ▶ SHE-GIVE-HIM
 - ▶ HELP-me

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Facial Expression and Sign modification

Facial expression and sign movement modification for degree, size, manner, and temporal/time aspect;

***Degree – BEAUTIFUL-very**

***Size – CAR-tiny, BUILDING-tall**

***Manner – READ-leisurely, SEW-fast**

***Temporal/time aspect – WORK-all-day-long, DANCE-continuously**



Repetition of sign verb movement

- ▶ **Repetition of sign verb movement** for repeated action;
- ▶ GO+++,
- ▶ LEARN+++.



Repetition of sign noun movement and vertical/horizontal sweep

- ▶ **Repetition of sign noun movement and vertical and horizontal sweep** for plurals;
- ▶ BOOK+++,
- ▶ MONDAY-sweep,
- ▶ MORNING-sweep.

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Number incorporation

- ▶ **Number incorporation (may include use of timeline):**
- ▶ AGE-5,
- ▶ 2-MONTH,
- ▶ 3-WEEK-AGO,
- ▶ TWO-of-US.



Listing non-dominant hand, FINISH, body shift

- ▶ **Listing on non-dominant hand, FINISH, body shifts, and pauses** for connecting ideas, separating ideas, and sequencing of events.



Sign Word Order

Examples:

*Rhetorical (rh-q) question – I LEAVE NOW MUST WHY?
TRAFFIC++

*Topic-comment – GIRL THERE, BLACK HAIR, LONG, MY
DAUGHTER

*MUST, CAN, NOT at end of comments – STUDY MUST

*Conditional – SUPPOSE ME FORGET, YOU REMIND-me

*Object-subject-verb (OSV) – CL: C (2h)-log, DOG JUMP



Classifiers

- a) description – **Example: BOOK CL:B-flat**
- b) location and relationship of people, animals, things and places – **Example: TENT TWO CL-A-side-by-side**
- c) actions of people, animal, and objects – **Example: MOUSE CL:1-climb-up-chair**
- d) how something is used or functions – **Example: SCISSORS CL:V-cut-straight**



Non-manual signals

Non-manual signals (neg. & aff. head movements, yes-no?, wh-?, puffed cheeks, pursed lips/o-o, mm, pah, cs, th, clenched teeth):

Use of head, face and lips that function as adverbs/adjectives to modify the meaning of verbs and nouns;

Examples:

***th-careless,**

***mm-complacent**

***puffed cheeks-swollen**

***pursed lips-intense**



Practice?

➡ Practice? Discuss

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Suggestion

- 1. Be friend with Deaf people
 - 2. Lunch with Deaf people
 - 3. Do things with Deaf people
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- The more you practice, your skills will improve!



Questions

➡ Discussion

