

## Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) Rating Scale<sup>a</sup>

### RATINGS

### DESCRIPTORS<sup>b</sup>

#### 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 with use of native-like prosody.

#### Superior

**Able to have a fully shared conversation with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics.** (A) Very broad sign language vocabulary, (B) near native-like production, (C) fluency and prosody and (D) excellent use of and many sign language grammatical features. (E) 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.** (A) Broad sign language vocabulary knowledge and (B) clear, accurate production of signs and fingerspelling at a normal/near-normal rate; (C) with near normal to normal/substantial prosody. (D) Good use of several sign language grammatical features and (E) 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.** (A) Good knowledge and control of everyday/basic sign language vocabulary. (B) Some sign misproductions (C) with fairly clear signing at a moderate signing rate with some prosody (D) Fair use of some sign language grammatical features and (E) 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.** (A) Some knowledge of basic sign language vocabulary with (B) many sign production errors. (C) Slow-to-moderate signing rate. (D) Basic use of a few sign language grammatical features. (E) 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 repetitions and rephrasing.** (A) 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. (B) Many sign production errors, and (C) fluency of slow rate, (D) basic use of a few or no use of grammatical features and (E) by a slow rate with frequent inappropriate pauses/hesitations with many repetitions and rephrasing.

#### No Functional Skill

**(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.**

<sup>a</sup>Adapted from US Foreign Service Institute & ACTFL LPI Rating Scales by William Newell & Frank Caccamise

<sup>b</sup>For all SLPI 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).

## SLPI: ANALYZING FUNCTION

<b>SLPI RATING</b>	<b>ELABORATION/ LENGTH OF RESPONSES</b>	<b>SENSE OF SHAREDNESS/ SPONTANEITY</b>
SUPERIOR PLUS/ SUPERIOR	In-depth elaboration, excellent detail	Fully acceptable, comfortable Share/spontaneous; crosstalk, back channel feedback, native-like prosody.
ADVANCED PLUS	Full elaboration. Good to excellent detail.	Close to fully acceptable and close to fully comfortable, shared/spontaneous, excellent prosody.
ADVANCED	Generally complete answer with good detail/ elaboration; may have some use of THEN and/or AND.	Generally acceptable and generally shared/spontaneous, fairly comfortable, generally good use of prosody.
INTERMEDIATE PLUS		
INTERMEDIATE	Sometimes elaborated answer, generally 3-to-5 sentences, frequent use of THEN and/or AND; surface answer good enough but not much detail.	But looks like a conversation; fairly shared with some question/answer; PLUS sometimes spontaneous with some confidence, some use of prosody.
SURVIVAL PLUS		
SURVIVAL	Generally 1-to-3 sentences; hands often go to lap after short responses.	Does not feel/look like a conversation; not shared, with many questions by interviewer.
NOVICE PLUS		
NOVICE	Generally 1 sentence, phrase, single sign responses; may fingerspell some very basic signs	Many questions, rephrasing, slow, simplified signing.
NO FUNCTIONAL SKILLS	(MAY have) Some short phrase, single sign responses to a few questions; fingerspelling for even very basic signs	Even basic questions signed slowly with repetition and/or rephrasing often misunderstood.