

Proficiency Assessment

- Measures how well you can speak in a conversation/interview setting
- Not scripted based on ability and interests
- Does not measure your knowledge of language, ability to read, vocabulary, etc.
- Proficiency vary by the week or even day
- Intended to measure how you would do in real life
- Provides an estimate only



Before the Interview

- Set up for good recording, especially good audio
 - consider workflow of video files
- Private, quiet location
- Set learner at ease, "Not a Test"
- Ask about use of recordings
- Give them an idea of what to expect

Structure of an Interview

5. Wind Down (Back to intermediate or lower)

4. Role Play/Scenario (Intermediate & Higher)

- 1. Warm Up
- Introductions
- Usually begin at Intermediate
- Find Topics

- 2. Find the Floor
- Establish minimal ability
- Level Checks

- 3. Test the Ceiling
- Test upward to find ceiling
- Probe on topic with new function

Linguistic Breakdown

- Failure to sustain level
- Increased errors
- Diminished fluency
- Silence
- Use of another language (except when no Alutiiq word exists!)
- Body language change



Ideas for Assessor

- Allow uncomfortable silences
- Don't give hints (hand gestures, facial expressions, etc.)
- be sympathetic, restate or move on if not getting it
- start at intermediate, but dip if having trouble. Get up into advanced if seeming at intermediate.
 - questions about routine (work, weekends, home, etc?)
 - Follow up based on things they say
 - Things they like to do, how do you do that?
 - Opinions, why questions
 - "What would you do?" questions

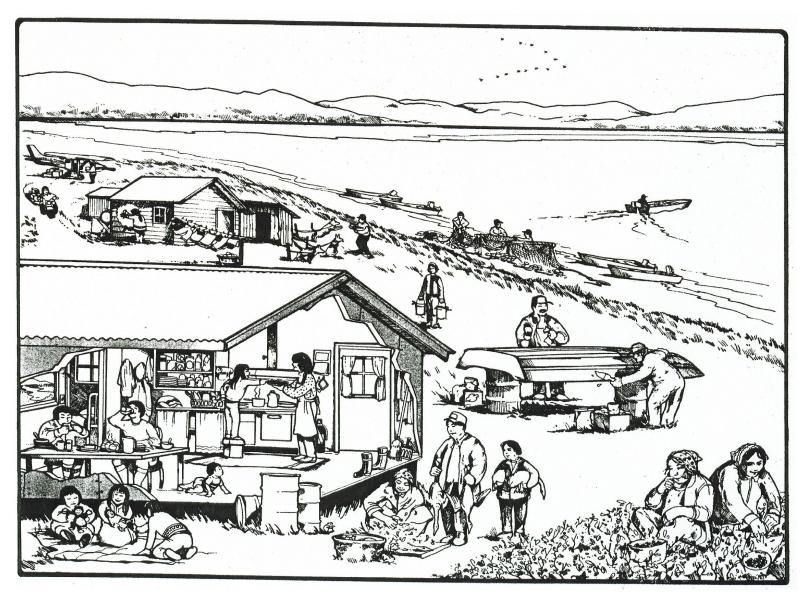
Ideas for Student/Learner

- Demonstrate full sentences no short answers
 - Or, try to say as much as you can, even if making it up!
- Errors and self-correcting are okay
- Never give a one-word answer!
- Try to control the direction of the conversation to topics and vocabulary you know.
- Plan ahead, be ready to talk about family, daily schedule, job, etc.
- Master asking questions (esp. for scenarios)
- Use varied cases (like subordinative) & other more obscure endings



- Give Learners opportunity to show what they have been learning
- Spend time teaching topics and structures that will be assessed

Non-ACTFL Interview Activities



After the Interview

- Congratulate on performance
- Save video files and title them with date/name
- Give learner idea of when to expect their assessment.
- Immediate review vs. waiting
- ACTFL analysis vs. Abbreviated
- Creating a report for the learner
 - Sensitivity to learner's response

Sample Learner Assessment Report

ACTFL Speaking Estimate	Novice Mid
ACTFL Understanding Estimate	Novice Mid
ACTFL Comments	You seem to be progressing quickly in your learning, so this level may not be accurate for long.
Immersion Time	You were able to stay in the language for 6 minutes, 29 seconds.
Elder Comments	An Elder says "You have great promise." Another reviewer says "Very good pronunciation. Need to work on suffixes and sentences next."
Average Speaking & Understanding Ability on a scale of 1-10	Avg. speaking: 4.6, Avg. listening: 4.3
	Self scores: speaking 1/ listening 3
(reviewer / self)	
Comments regarding 1-10 Estimates	All reviewers had a higher estimate of your skills than you did.
Identified Areas for Study	The primary area of recommendations was in putting words and phrases together. Reviewers also felt that study should focus on everyday conversation and showing Elders you understand what they say.