



The ACTFL Language Testing Office

3 Barker Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601

• 914-963-7110

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Attachment 1

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Description

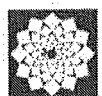
The Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is a standardized procedure for assessing your speaking ability. The OPI measures how well you speak a language by comparing your performance of specific communication tasks with the criteria for 10 level of speaking proficiency. The OPI is administered by an independent testing company. It is a 15-30 minute digitally-recorded conversation between you and a live ACTFL certified language proficiency "tester." During the OPI, you may be asked general questions about your work and school experiences, special interests and possibly, current events. You may also be asked to take part in a role-play.

It is important that you should participate as fully as you can; giving short answers to avoid making mistakes is not recommended. If the tester introduces a topic that you do not want to discuss, you should say so. If this happens, you may need to suggest alternative topics that you're willing to discuss. Once again, you should be an active participant in the interview. The tester is only evaluating you on how well you speak the standard form of the language, not your actual opinions; the content of your answers, responses or opinions, does not affect your final rating.

The speech you produce during this interview will be compared to the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Speaking (Revised 1999)* by an ACTFL certified rater. The rater will select the description that best describes the level of proficiency you demonstrated during the interview. The assessment criteria used by the rater when comparing your speech to the ACTFL descriptions are:

- Global speaking tasks accomplished (description, narration, supported opinion and hypothesizing)
- Contexts (informal and formal contexts)
- Content (range and appropriateness of vocabulary and usage)
- Accuracy (pronunciation, fluency and grammar)
- Text type (words, sentences, cohesive paragraphs, multiple paragraphs, etc.)

The Administrator will only be given your final rating. The taped content of the interview is strictly confidential and the sole property of the testing company, LTI, and will not be shared with any other party.





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Attachment 2

Oral Proficiency Interview by Computer (OPIC) Description

The OPIC is a 15-30 minute digitally-recorded conversation conducted over the telephone, between the candidate and an Avatar "tester." It is a semi-direct test of spoken proficiency designed to elicit a sample of speech via recorded, computer-adapted voice prompts. Completed tests are digitally saved and rated by an ACTFL Certified Rater.

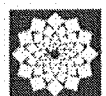
The candidate is assessed on his/her ability to speak the standard form of the target language without using another language or slang. The candidate's overall ability to communicate orally in the target language is the only skill being assessed, and not the content of his/her answers, responses or opinions.

It is important that you should participate as fully as you can; giving short answers to avoid making mistakes is not recommended. If the tester introduces a topic that you do not want to discuss, you should say so. If this happens, you may need to suggest alternative topics that you're willing to discuss. Once again, you should be an active participant in the interview. The tester is only evaluating you on how well you speak the standard form of the language, not your actual opinions; the content of your answers, responses or opinions, does not affect your final rating.

The speech you produce during this interview will be compared to the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Speaking (Revised 1999)* by an ACTFL certified rater. The rater will select the description that best describes the level of proficiency you demonstrated during the interview. The assessment criteria used by the rater when comparing your speech to the ACTFL descriptions are:

- Global speaking tasks accomplished (description, narration, supported opinion and hypothesizing)
- Contexts (informal and formal contexts)
- Content (range and appropriateness of vocabulary and usage)
- Accuracy (pronunciation, fluency and grammar)
- Text type (words, sentences, cohesive paragraphs, multiple paragraphs, etc.)

The Administrator will only be given your final rating. The recorded content of the interview is strictly confidential and the sole property of the testing company, LTI, and will not be shared with any other party.





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Attachment 3

Telephone OPIc Description

The Phone OPIc is a 15-30 minute digitally-recorded conversation conducted over the telephone. It is a semi-direct test of spoken proficiency designed to elicit a sample of speech via pre-recorded questions. Completed tests are digitally saved and rated by an ACTFL Certified Rater.

The candidate is assessed on his/her ability to speak the standard form of the target language without using another language or slang. The candidate's overall ability to communicate orally in the target language is the only skill being assessed, and not the content of his/her answers, responses or opinions.

It is important that you should participate as fully as you can; giving short answers to avoid making mistakes is not recommended. If the tester introduces a topic that you do not want to discuss, you should say so. If this happens, you may need to suggest alternative topics that you're willing to discuss. Once again, you should be an active participant in the interview. The tester is only evaluating you on how well you speak the standard form of the language, not your actual opinions; the content of your answers, responses or opinions, does not affect your final rating.

The speech you produce during this interview will be compared to the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines – Speaking (Revised 1999)* by an ACTFL certified rater. The rater will select the description that best describes the level of proficiency you demonstrated during the interview. The assessment criteria used by the rater when comparing your speech to the ACTFL descriptions are:

- Global speaking tasks accomplished (description, narration, supported opinion and hypothesizing)
- Contexts (informal and formal contexts)
- Content (range and appropriateness of vocabulary and usage)
- Accuracy (pronunciation, fluency and grammar)
- Text type (words, sentences, cohesive paragraphs, multiple paragraphs, etc.)

The Administrator will only be given the final rating. The taped content of the interview is strictly confidential and the sole property of the testing company, LTI, and will not be shared with any other party.

