

Overview of CLB LEVELS

	5	6	7	8
Speaking	I can join in conversations on familiar topics. I am beginning to use longer sentences, but sometimes I hesitate or pause. I know a lot of common, everyday vocabulary and some idioms. I can use the phone for a simple conversation, but I still find it difficult.	I can participate in small group discussions where I express my opinion, ask for clarification. I can keep a conversation going and can hold my own when speaking to a group. I can provide accurate and detailed information. I can use a variety of complex sentences and I speak at almost normal speed. I can explain a process or sequence of events.	I can participate in a small group discussion and express my opinions, feelings and reservations about a topic. I can give clear instructions and directions related to moderately complex, familiar, technical and non-technical tasks. I am comfortable speaking formally or informally, on topics involving problem solving or decision-making. I can make a detailed comparison.	I am comfortable speaking about almost anything that comes up in normal conversation in social situations or at work. I am able to address large groups or participate in group discussions. I can speak on familiar topics at both concrete and abstract levels. I can present information, give instructions, propose and recommend. I can give descriptions, opinions and explanations. I can synthesize abstract complex ideas and hypotheses.
Listening	I can understand conversations if people speak slowly. I can follow simple, respectful and predictable speech. I can catch many words and phrases in informal conversations at a normal speed in audio recordings and on the radio. I can follow the general idea if the subject is personally relevant.	I can follow a conversation about a familiar topic at a pace slightly slower than normal. I can listen to a short instructional talk. I can understand short sets of instructions or directions and follow the sequence of the steps even if they are not in step-by-step form.	I can understand the main point and important details of a conversation as well as inferred meanings. I can understand a formal or informal conversation. I can understand more complex, indirect questions about personal experience, familiar topics and general knowledge. I can understand a phone message if I am familiar with the topic. I might still have trouble understanding native speakers when they speak quickly to one another.	When someone is speaking, I can understand the main points, details, purpose, and attitude. I can recognize different levels of formality. I can understand some technical conversations, especially about my line of work. I can understand abstract and complex ideas on a familiar topic. I follow detailed and extended instructions if they are clear and coherent. I can usually understand phone messages, even on unfamiliar, non-routine subjects.
Reading	I can understand the main ideas, some details and some inferred meaning of a text 2-3 paragraphs long. The topics are familiar and personally relevant. I can read information that I receive regularly, such as a gas bill, or some items in a newspaper usually, I have to read something more than once to understand it. Sometimes, by looking at a whole sentence, I can understand what a new word means. However, most of the time, I use my dictionary for new words.	I can read a text written in plain English that is 3-5 paragraphs long and a little difficult. I can understand the main idea, key details and some inferred meanings. I read mostly about fact and things I can see, but I sometimes read about abstract or technical issues.	I can read authentic text that is 1-2 pages long and moderately complex. I read for information, to learn English and develop reading skills. I am also beginning to read for pleasure. The language I read is both concrete and abstract, dealing with facts, opinions and feelings.	I can follow main ideas, key words and important details in a text of 2-3 pages on a familiar topic. I read popular newspapers, magazine articles, popular easy fiction, as well as academic and business materials. I can read about abstract, conceptual or technical topics.
Writing	I can write a paragraph about an idea or an opinion and give details. I can write a short letter, note, or e-mail using appropriate language. I can fill out an application form with a main idea and supporting details.	I can write a detailed description or comparison of people, places, objects and routines. I can describe a simple process. I can write a short letter, note or e-mail using appropriate language and layout. I can fill out a longer application form with 20-30 items. When I write, I have a clear message. I include details to support the message. I think about who I am writing to.	I can respond in writing to appreciation, complaint, disappointment, satisfaction and hope. I can write personal and routine business letters. I summarize longer texts without losing essential information. I write coherent paragraphs on familiar, concrete topics with clear main ideas and some supporting details. I have a developing sense of audience. I can write a report comparing two products or describing a process.	I can write routine business letters and personal and formal social messages. I can link sentences 3-4 paragraphs to form coherent text to express ideas on familiar, abstract topics with some support for main ideas and an appropriate sense of audience. I can write down a set of simple instructions based on clear oral communication. I can write simple procedural text of greater length. I can write an effective resume and cover letter. I can write an incident report or memo with some supporting main ideas, and with an appropriate sense of audience.