

AAPPL FAQs & Resources for Parents



What is the AAPPL?

The ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages ([AAPPL](#)) is a web-based proficiency and performance-based assessment of standards-based language learning as defined by the *World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*. AAPPL assesses the language that students have learned and practiced within a classroom setting, providing evidence that points toward a learner’s proficiency level.

The AAPPL is made up of four parts (modes): Interpersonal Listening/Speaking (ILS), Interpretive Reading (IR), Interpretive Listening (IL), and Presentational Writing (PW). The four components of the test take approximately two to three hours combined. Each component takes between 30 and 45 minutes and can be administered in one sitting, or in multiple sittings.

The AAPPL incorporates video and other real-life language opportunities for your child to demonstrate what they can do in the language!

How are learners evaluated?

Your child will receive a score after taking the AAPPL which will show you where their language skills fall on the [ACTFL Proficiency Scale](#) and the [ACTFL Performance Scale](#). The score will identify a proficiency range between Novice Low and Advanced Low along with a performance score between 1 and 5.

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines	ACTFL Performance Scale	AAPPL Proficiency Range & Performance Score	Form			
Advanced Low	Advanced	A-1	A	B		
Intermediate High		I-5				
Intermediate Mid	I-4					
Intermediate Mid	I-3					
Intermediate Mid	I-2					
Intermediate Low	INTERMEDIATE	I-1	A	B		
Novice High		N-4				
Novice Mid		N-3				
Novice Mid		N-2				
Novice Low		N-1				
	NOVICE					

AAPPL Interpersonal Listening and Speaking, as well as the Presentational Writing tasks are rated according to the AAPPL Rating Criteria (ARC) by ACTFL- certified raters. The Interpretive Listening and Interpretive Reading components are machine-scored.



What do students receive after taking the AAPPL?

The AAPPL was developed to help inform classroom instruction by providing information on learner strengths and challenges. As such, the score report describes the learner's language proficiency and provides advice on strategies learners can use to improve.

The score report lists separate score for each component of the AAPPL (Interpretive Listening, Interpretive Reading, Interpersonal Listening and Speaking, and Presentational Writing). An explanation of the score reports can be found [here](#).

How can I help my child prepare for the AAPPL?

At ACTFL, we believe that practice leads to proficiency! We recommend facilitating opportunities to use the language both inside and outside of the classroom. Below are a few suggested resources to facilitate language practice.

- **AAPPL Tips:** ACTFL provides suggestions on what to expect in a series of brief YouTube videos found at: <https://www.actfl.org/center-assessment-research-and-development/actfl-assessments/actfl-k-12-assessments/actfl-assessment-performance-toward-proficiency-languages/tips>
- **AAPPL Demo:** ACTFL provides demos to allow learners the opportunity to practice the test and to become accustomed to the computer-based setting. Demos can be found at: <https://www.languagetesting.com/aappl2-demo>.
- **Keyboarding:** Keyboarding may sometimes be a challenge for those new to typing. ACTFL recommends reviewing and practicing making special characters on a keyboard with learners. The presentational writing tasks found in the AAPPL demo is an ideal place to practice keyboarding skills.
- **AAPPL Communication Builder:** ACTFL provides the [AAPPL Communication Builder](#) which allows teachers, parents and students to create and/or make use of AAPPL-like practice activities.
- **AAPPL Topics:** Each year, ACTFL provides an overview of the [general topics](#) found on the AAPPL. Encourage your learners to practice speaking, reading, and writing on



topics in these areas and others.

- **NCSSFL- ACTFL Can-Do Statements:** Review the [Can-Do Statements](#) to understand what your child's language proficiency goals might be. You may want to discuss the proficiency goals with your learner's teacher.

Are there any resources available?

Absolutely! Here are some additional tips from world language teachers on how to practice outside of the classroom setting:

- Have your child read articles from publications in the target language, such as magazines and news sources (BBC.com can be read in English and then in multiple languages). Vary between subjects and difficulty of the article. The following are some examples of news sources particularly tailored to language learners:
 - Chinese: [Decipher Chinese](#)
 - English: [News in Levels](#)
 - French: [20 Minutes](#)
 - German: [Nachrichtenleicht](#)
 - Italian: [News in Slow Italian](#)
 - Japanese: [NHK News Web Easy](#)
 - Korean: [VOA Korea](#)
 - Russian: [News in Slow Russian](#)
 - Spanish: [Hola qué pasa](#)
- In the car or at home, have your child listen to some music in the target language. YouTube, Pandora, or Spotify are some suggested providers.
- Try to incorporate some daily contact with programming in the target language on TV. Currently, Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, and Amazon all offer streaming in various languages. Try watching news programs, game shows, dramas, movies, children's programming, or whatever you find most appropriate.

Here are some useful YouTube channels of news networks with which your child could practice their listening comprehension skills:

- Chinese: [CCTV](#)
 - English: [BBC News](#)
 - French: [France Info](#)
 - German: [DW Deutsch](#)
 - Italian: [Euronews](#)
 - Japanese: [FNN](#)
 - Korean: [TV Chosun](#)
 - Russian: [RT News](#)
 - Spanish: [BBC Mundo](#)
- Seek out opportunities to listen (and interact with) speakers of the target language. Take your learner to restaurants (if there are any near you) and try to speak in the target language. Seek out community events, volunteer opportunities, and local congregations that have activities and services in the target language. Speaking the target language outside of class with teachers, friends, and neighbors... you'd be surprised at how fluency will improve with practice!