

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines

At the end of the first year of studying a World Language you will . . .

- Know how to say "hello" and "goodbye"
- Be able to speak politely
- Talk about what you like and don't like
- Ask and answer simple questions
- Give simple directions
- Show that you understand and can give simple directions and instructions
- Recite and use the alphabet, days of the week, months, seasons, and numbers 1-100
- Tell time
- Get the main idea and pick out some details when you listen and read
- Tell the differences between questions and statements when you hear them
- Figure out simple announcements, messages, and advertisements
- Recognize basic gestures and body language
- Give basic information about yourself and others including school, family, and activities
- Do dialogues, skits, poetry, and songs with your classmates
- Learn and talk about customs and traditions of the cultures such as greetings, celebrations, and courtesies
- Learn about some of the culture, history, geography, and current events of the countries being studied
- See vocabulary, phrases, proverbs, and symbols from the target language being used in other subjects
- Recognize similarities and differences between English and the target language such as pronunciation, cognates, and gender
- Look at examples of the target language and the culture(s) that are seen in media, entertainment, and technology

How well will you be able to use your new language at the end year?

You will be able to understand much of what your teacher says, and you will be able to understand your classmates. You will understand some of what you hear when you listen to native speakers talk about things you learn in class. When you talk, you may have to pause to think of words to use, but you'll be able to come up with something to say in a very simple way. Reading notes, postcards, menus, and advertisements and getting the point of newspaper articles, website information, and cartoons will be no problem for you! You will find that you can write much of what you can say. You should expect to make mistakes, but you *will* be able to express your ideas.