Novice High (NH)

A rating of Novice High indicates that the Speaker is:

- able to demonstrate the ability to function at the **Intermediate** level **most of the time**.
- unable to sustain **Intermediate** level across **all rating criteria** all of the time.

**Novice High** speakers operate at the Intermediate level *most of the time*, but have breakdown in one or more features of the Intermediate level. Breakdown can be, among other things, failure to perform the required functions of the Intermediate level, such as the inability to create with the language (make their own personalized meaning) across a limited range of everyday topics; failure to use simple sentences consistently when required by the function; or issues with pronunciation and accuracy so that the message becomes confusing for listeners.

Intermediate Low (IL)

A rating of Intermediate Low indicates that the Speaker is able to:

- fulfill **all** of the requirements for the Intermediate level (*creates with language by asking and answering questions about familiar topics, in sentences and strings of sentences*).
- produce Intermediate level responses but struggles to do so
- communicate primarily by using what they have practiced and hear from their interlocutors.

**Intermediate Low** speakers are able to perform Intermediate-level tasks, albeit barely. They are able to express themselves by creating with the language, primarily by combining and recombining known elements (what they have learned) and conversational input to produce responses typically consisting of short, discrete sentences. Their responses are often filled with hesitancy and inaccuracies as they search for the appropriate vocabulary and linguistic forms. Their speech is characterized by frequent pauses. Their language, including pronunciation, is strongly influenced by their first language, and therefore can generally be understood by sympathetic interlocutors, especially those accustomed to dealing with learners.
Intermediate Mid (IM)

A rating of Intermediate Mid indicates that the Speaker is able to:
- fulfill all of the requirements for the Intermediate level (creates with language by asking and answering questions about familiar topics, in sentences and strings of sentences).
- produce Intermediate level responses with both quantity and quality.
- produce responses that are consistently strong across all the Intermediate level assessment criteria.

Intermediate Mid speakers are at ease when performing Intermediate-level tasks and do so with significant quality and quantity of Intermediate language. They are able to express themselves by creating with the language, in part by combining and recombining known elements and conversational input to produce responses typically consisting of sentences and strings of sentences. Their speech may contain pauses, reformulations, and self-corrections as they search for adequate vocabulary and appropriate language forms to express themselves. In spite of the possible limitations in their vocabulary, pronunciation, and syntax, they are generally understood by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

Intermediate High (IH)

A rating of Intermediate High indicates that the Speaker is:
- able to demonstrate the ability to function at the Advanced level most of the time.
- unable to sustain Advanced-level across all rating criteria all of the time.

Intermediate High speakers operate at the advanced level most of the time, but have breakdown in one or more features of the Advanced level. Breakdown can be, among other things, failure to perform the required functions of the Advanced level, inability to maintain the appropriate time frame when narrating and/or describing about past/future (for example, reverting to present when talking about the past); failure to speak consistently in paragraph form when required by the function; or issues with accuracy so that the message becomes confusing for listeners (this may include weaknesses in pronunciation).

Advanced (A)

A rating of Advanced indicates that the Speakers is able to:
- narrate and describe in all major time frames in order to have conversations about both personal experiences, as well as topics related to community interest.
- handle a routine situation with an unexpected complication.
- produce paragraph-length or connected discourse when narrating and describing about a variety of topics.
- resolve a routine social transaction with an unanticipated complication.

Advanced-level speakers are consistently understood by native speakers who have no experience dealing with non-native speakers of the language being assessed. In other words, their message does not become lost, though this may occasionally require repetition or restatement.