### Strategies for Progressing from Intermediate High to Advanced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intermediate High (IH)</th>
<th>Advanced (A)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A rating of Intermediate High indicates that the Speaker is:</strong></td>
<td><strong>A rating of Advanced indicates that the Speaker is able to:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• able to demonstrate the ability to function at the Advanced level most of the time.</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• unable to sustain Advanced-level across all rating criteria all of the time.</td>
<td>• handle a routine situation with an unexpected complication.</td>
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**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-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.

### Strategies for Progressing from Intermediate High to Advanced

1. Tell stories. Be sure to tell the whole story from beginning to end. Use words and phrases that support the chronology of your story. With a conversational partner, practice explaining and/or clarifying specific narrations and descriptions so that the listener is not in any way confused about the chronology of events.

2. Use appropriate verb forms to maintain descriptions and narrations in past, present, and future time.

3. Do not avoid situations in which you must resolve a situation with an unexpected turn of events (e.g. a lost wallet, a missed airplane, locked door, etc.) Role play practice is particularly helpful in developing strategies to “think on your feet.”
4. Use connecting words (and, but, also, however, first, next, in addition, etc.) within and between sentences to produce oral paragraphs. These connectors (and others) can help you to develop greater clarity, organization, and detail in your speech.

5. Talk about familiar people, places, objects, buildings, cities, etc. using as much language as you can. Elaborate by including as much detail as you can. Use dependent clauses to add richness to your descriptions. Describe in a way that “paints a picture” for the listener.

6. Keep a written journal in which you record interesting observations, events, both personal and of a more general nature (e.g., current events in your community, city, country, etc.) Identify new vocabulary and phrases that are necessary to talk about these events. First write notes about the events, then practice telling them to a conversational partner while only referring to your notes, and ultimately doing so without using your notes at all.

7. Increase exposure to target language media (news broadcasts constitute excellent examples of narrations and descriptions in the past). Talk about what you have heard about reported on the radio or TV.

8. Read newspapers, magazines, and books in the target language. Retell events you have read about and that are of general interest.

9. If possible, participate in immersion experiences in English at home or abroad. The more “time on task,” performing real-world functions across a variety of contexts in the language, the more likely you will achieve Advanced-level proficiency.

10. Work with a conversation partner or tutor who is familiar with your proficiency goals and the criteria for the Advanced level of speaking proficiency. Your conversation partner should provide opportunities for you to speak extemporaneously. Keep in mind that Advanced level speech is that which is produced by a full conversational partner. It is not rehearsed or prepared speech.

11. Work to improve pronunciation and intonation so that you can be understood by speakers of English who are not accustomed to interacting with learners.