ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners | **Interpretive**

Domains	Novice Range	Intermediate Range	Advanced Range
	Understands words, phrases, and formulaic language that have been practiced and memorized to get meaning of the main idea from simple, highly-predictable oral or written texts, with strong visual support.	**Understands main ideas and some supporting details on familiar topics from a variety of texts.**	**Understands main ideas and supporting details on familiar and some new, concrete topics from a variety of more complex texts that have a clear, organized structure.**
Functions	Comprehends meaning through recognition of key words and formulaic phrases that are highly contextualized. May show emerging evidence of the ability to make inferences based on background and prior knowledge.	Comprehends main ideas and identifies some supporting details. May show emerging evidence of the ability to make inferences by identifying key details from the text.	Comprehends the main idea and supporting details of narrative, descriptive, and straightforward persuasive texts. Makes inferences and derives meaning from context and linguistic features.
Contexts/ Content	Comprehends texts with highly predictable, familiar contexts (those related to personal background, prior knowledge, or experiences).	Comprehends information related to basic personal and social needs and relevant to one's immediate environment such as self and everyday life, school, community, and particular interests.	Comprehends texts pertaining to real-world topics of general interest relevant to personal, social, work-related, community, national, and international contexts.
Text Type	Derives meaning when authentic texts (listening, reading, or viewing) are supported by visuals or when the topic is very familiar. Comprehends texts ranging in length from lists, to phrases, to simple sentences, often with graphically organized information.	Comprehends simple stories, routine correspondence, short descriptive texts or other selections within familiar contexts. Generally comprehends connected sentences and much paragraph-like discourse. Comprehends information-rich texts with highly predictable order.	Comprehends paragraph discourse such as that found in stories, straightforward literary works, personal and work-related correspondence, written reports or instructions, oral presentations (news), anecdotes, descriptive texts, and other texts dealing with topics of a concrete nature.

Domains	Novice Range	Intermediate Range	Advanced Range
Language Control	Primarily relies on vocabulary to derive meaning from texts. May derive meaning by recognizing structural patterns that have been used in familiar and some new contexts.	Sufficient control of language (vocabulary, structures, conventions of spoken and written language, etc.) to understand fully and with ease short, non-complex texts on familiar topics; limited control of language to understand some more complex texts. May derive meaning by: • Comparing target language structures with those of the native language • Recognizing parallels in structure between new and familiar language	Sufficient control of language (vocabulary, structures, conventions of spoken and written language, etc.) to understand fully and with ease more complex and descriptive texts with connected language and cohesive devices. Derives meaning by: • Understanding sequencing, time frames, and chronology • Classifying words or concepts according to word order or grammatical use
Vocabulary	Comprehends some, but not all of the time, highly predictable vocabulary, a limited number of words related to familiar topics, and formulaic expressions.	Comprehends high frequency vocabulary related to everyday topics and high frequency idiomatic expressions.	Comprehends generic and some specific vocabulary and structures, specialized and precise vocabulary on topics related to one's experience, and an expanding number of idiomatic expressions.
Communication Strategies	May use some or all of the following strategies to comprehend texts, able to: • Skim and scan • Rely on visual support and background knowledge • Predict meaning based on context, prior knowledge, and/or experience For alphabetic languages: • Reply on recognition of cognates • May recognize word family roots, prefixes and suffixes	May use some or all of the following strategies to comprehend texts, able to: • Skim and scan • Use visual support and background knowledge • Predict meaning based on context, prior knowledge, and/or experience • Use context clues • Recognize word family roots, prefixes and suffixes For non-alphabetic languages: • Recognize radicals	Comprehends fully the intent of the message adapting strategies for one's own purposes; uses some or all of the following strategies, able to: • Skim and scan • Use visual support and background knowledge • Predict meaning based on context, prior knowledge, and/or experience • Use context clues • Use linguistic knowledge • Identify the organizing principle of the text • Create inferences • Differentiate main ideas from supporting details in order to verify
Cultural Awareness	Uses own culture to derive meaning from texts that are heard, read, or viewed.	Generally relies heavily on knowledge of own culture with increasing knowledge of the target culture(s) to interpret texts that are heard, read, or viewed.	Uses knowledge of cultural differences between own culture and target culture(s) as well as increasing knowledge of the target culture(s) to interpret texts that are heard, read, or viewed.