

What is Communicative Language Teaching with World Language Initiative?

Communicative Language Teaching is an approach to teaching a World Language that aims toward assisting students in building their proficiency. The ultimate goal is communication and we get to higher levels of proficiency by listening and reading, and not by memorizing vocabulary or grammatical structures.

Proficiency is a measure of how consistently and with greater complexity you can use the language, in a variety of situations, using skills like circumlocution. Circumlocution is the ability to “talk around” the word you want/need to say, using the words you already have.

The following chart describes how your proficiency level might look at different levels for listening and in person to person communication.

	Beginner			Intermediate			Advanced			
	True Beginner	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Listening	True Beginner I can understand a few familiar words. I can understand some words that are similar to those in my own language.	I can understand some everyday words, phrases and questions about me, my personal experiences and my surroundings, when people speak slowly and clearly.	I can understand ideas on familiar topics expressed through phrases, short sentences, and frequently used expressions. I can understand the main point in messages and announcements	I can understand main ideas and a few details in sentences, short conversations and some forms	I can understand ideas on familiar topics expressed through a series of sentences. I can understand details expressed in conversations and through some forms of media.	I can understand some extended speech on a variety of familiar and some unfamiliar topics delivered through conversations and other media.	I can understand some extended speech on unfamiliar topics delivered through a variety of media.	I can understand extended speech and lectures, even when somewhat complicated. I can understand most forms of media with little effort.	I can understand most spoken language and some technical discussions. I can understand some accents and dialects.	
Person to Person Communication	True Beginner I can use single words and simple memorized phrases.	I can interact with help using memorized words and phrases. I can answer simple questions on very familiar topics	I can exchange info about familiar tasks, topics and activities. I can handle short social interactions using phrases and sentences, but I may need help to keep the conversation going	I can begin and carry on an unrehearsed conversation on a limited number of familiar topics. I can ask and answer simple questions and exchange information in highly familiar situations.	I can state my views and begin and carry on conversations on a variety of familiar topics and in uncomplicated situations.	I can state and support my views and take an active part in discussions on familiar topics and in some complicated situations.	I can express myself on a range of familiar and some unfamiliar topics. I can link ideas in extended discussions.	I can communicate with fluency and flexibility on concrete social and professional topics.	I can usually adapt my language to the situation. I can express myself with fluency, flexibility and precision on concrete and some abstract topics.	



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