

To Share With Students (Provided by Kim Talbot, Melrose Public Schools)

1. What is a proficiency test?

- test of what you have
- can't study for it
- your levels are based on what you do with the language. the less you do the lower you score
- levels of proficiency * (See Taco Talk)
 - Novice (low, mid, high) - isolated words and phrases
 - Intermediate (low, mid, high) - sentences and strings of sentences
 - Advanced (low, mid, high) - complex sentences and paragraphs

2. What is this test

- smart test - how you answer the first questions determine which questions you get next
- listening/speaking on the same day (headphones)
- reading/writing on the same day
- results graded by an outside agency and returned in 1 week
- results are organized by each domain of language

3. Why should you take it?

- Seal of Biliteracy award if the mode of your scores is Intermediate-Mid or higher
- Helps us benchmark our program (like MCAS)
- Nationally Recognized level of achievement (resume or classes)

4. How do you prepare?

- Be “all in” in the moment of testing - say and do as much as you can - and then say and do one more thing
- Be “all in” during class time to really USE the language

Proficiency Level	Taco Talk	Description
Novice Low	beef, lettuce, cheese, yum!	simple words
Novice Mid	beef, cheese on top, lettuce on top, no hot sauce, eat every day	repetitive phrases
Novice High	I like tacos. Tacos, beef and I like beef. I put cheese. My friend John, no cheese. He doesn't like cheese.	simple sentences together
Intermediate Low	My family eat tacos a lot because my mom makes best tacos. She makes tacos, amazing, with different ingredients. You want eat my mom's tacos at my place soon?	by combining what you know to make <u>short statements and simple sentences</u> , making yourself understood even with some mistakes
Intermediate Mid	Because all we absolutely love them, my mom cooks tacos pretty often. She finds the instructions to cook them on a some website. How about come to my house to try them?	more connections, more variety, more questions

	<p>Sounds good? How about next Monday after the school?</p>	
Intermediate High	<p>What you mean you don't like tacos? I know, you had bad tacos once, right? I went to a taco stand in Texas one time and I was threw up for some hours! I mean, sick as a dog. I thought, I don't want tacos again another time and then my mom made tacos de lengua with cilantro and onions from Mexico and I thought, ¡olé! My friends need to try these tacos, they're like the heaven! So, Monday after school?</p>	<p>confidently describe, tell stories about some experiences in various time frames, and even handle some unexpected complications!</p>
Advanced	<p>Do you have any idea where that avocado on your taco came from? Probably it came from Mexico, the center part. I heard the news that there is drought in Mexico and not only,</p>	<p>Organizing communication well, throwing in info from various parts of life like social problems</p>

	<p>also there have been earthquakes the government can't handle. The climate and environment make difficult to pick and sell and transport the avocados.</p>	
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