



NATO STANAG 6001, Ed. 4
OVERVIEW OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVELS

STANAG 6001 PROFICIENCY LEVEL	Tasks <i>What a person can do with the language</i>	Topics & Contexts <i>What a person can understand, talk and write about</i>	Accuracy <i>How well a person can use the language</i>
5 <i>Highly articulate native</i>	Proficiency equivalent to that of a well educated, highly articulate native speaker, reader, etc.		
4 <i>Expert</i>	Can understand and produce precise and nuanced language to handle highly demanding tasks, such as negotiating, persuading, etc.	Highly complex and abstract, professional, expert-related language needs.	Uses precise, efficient and nuanced language
3 <i>Professional</i>	Can understand and produce language to justify policy decisions, support opinions, speculate on outcomes, etc.	Abstract topics, policy papers, professional articles, editorials, etc.	Uses language effectively and accurately in professional and social settings.
2 <i>Functional</i>	Can understand and produce detailed descriptions, instructions, directions; can narrate events in past, present and future time; can understand and report on factual information; can resolve routine problems	Personal background, interests, current events, everyday work requirements such as reports, memos, procedures, etc.	Uses language confidently in most everyday, routine work and social situations
1 <i>Survival</i>	Can ask and answer simple, routine, familiar questions and participate in short conversations and written exchanges	Everyday survival topics and courtesy expressions, such as greetings, shopping, biography, basic travel, etc.	Misunderstands frequently
0+ <i>Memorized</i>	Can understand and produce isolated words & memorized phrases	Some basic personal information, greetings, numbers, time expressions, common objects.	Miscommunicates most of the time

IMPORTANT: This table is intended to assist non-specialists in assigning and interpreting Standardized Language Profiles (SLPs) for job descriptions and positional requirements. These simplified level descriptors do NOT replace the full STANAG 6001, Ed. 4 Language Proficiency Level descriptors.