

## Berlitz Proficiency Interview & Custom Tests

### BERLITZ PROFICIENCY INTERVIEW

The Berlitz Proficiency Interview (BPI) is an oral proficiency testing system designed to accurately measure the active oral communicative ability of your employees or applicants in a professional setting.

Designed through an ongoing partnership with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, this testing system is based on a guided dialogue between the Berlitz Rater and the examinee by telephone. Our raters are native-fluent in their test language and trained to lead the Berlitz Proficiency Interview in a professional and pleasant manner.

Through a series of questions, prompts, and tasks set in a customer-service context, the Berlitz Rater elicits oral language production from the examinee. It is measured in the areas of fluency, grammatical accuracy, lexical range, and phonological control.

The results are based on the Common European Framework – one of the most widely used and recognized language proficiency scales in the world – and easily interpreted to determine employee or applicant language qualification.

The BPI was developed through strict adherence to professional and ethical principles of test design as established in the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*<sup>1</sup> by the American Educational Research Association, the American Council on Measurement in Education, and the American Psychological Association.

To meet your staffing needs quickly and efficiently, our Call Center Staff handles your scheduling requests and administers the tests.

We assist you in setting up a secure testing environment on your premises to ensure smooth, fair, and proctored test administration. Test results are provided within 24 hours of test administration.

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<sup>1</sup> Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, American Educational Research Association, 2000, 194pp.

## BPI Proficiency Scale: Common European Framework

PROFICIENCY LEVELS		DESCRIPTION OF SKILLS FOR <i>OVERALL SPOKEN INTERACTION</i>
Proficient User	C2	Has a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms with awareness of connotative levels of meaning. Can convey finer shades of meaning precisely by using, with reasonable accuracy, a wide range of modification devices. Can backtrack and restructure around a difficulty so smoothly the interlocutor is hardly aware of it.
	C1	Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly. Has a good command of a broad lexical repertoire allowing gaps to be readily overcome with circumlocutions. There is little obvious searching for expressions or avoidance strategies; only a conceptually difficult subject can hinder a natural, smooth flow of language. Can use the language fluently, accurately and effectively on a wide range of general, academic, vocational or leisure topics, marking clearly the relationships between ideas. Can communicate spontaneously with good grammatical control without much sign of having to restrict what he/she wants to say, adopting a level of formality appropriate to the circumstances.
Independent User	B2	Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction, and sustained relationships with native speakers quite possible without imposing strain on either party. Can highlight the personal significance of events and experiences, account for and sustain views clearly by providing relevant explanations and arguments. Can communicate with some confidence on familiar routine and non-routine matters related to his/her interests and professional field. Can exchange, check and confirm information, deal with less routine situations and explain why something is a problem. Can express thoughts on more abstract, cultural topics such as films, books, music etc.
	B1	Can exploit a wide range of simple language to deal with most situations likely to arise whilst traveling. Can enter unprepared into conversation on familiar topics, express personal opinions and exchange information on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events). Can interact with reasonable ease in structured situations and short conversations, provided the other person helps if necessary. Can manage simple, routine exchanges without undue effort; can ask and answer questions and exchange ideas and information on familiar topics in predictable everyday situations.
Basic User	A2	Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters to do with work and free time. Can handle very short social exchanges but is rarely able to understand enough to keep conversation going of his/her own accord.
	A1	Can interact in a simple way but communication is totally dependent on repetition at a slower rate of speech, rephrasing and repair. Can ask and answer simple questions, initiate and respond to simple statements in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.
Minimum passing Standard for Irving ISD is B1		

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For more information on Berlitz Testing go to [www.berlitz.us](http://www.berlitz.us)