

Language Pathways Podcast Series: Connecting Heritage Learners to Federal Careers Episode 5: The Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Scale

Resources from the Episode

Interagency Language Roundtable

<https://www.govtilr.org/>

The Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) website lists the ILR Skill Level Descriptions for reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

ILR Self-Assessments

Speaking: <https://www.govtilr.org/Publications/speakingsa.html>

Reading: <https://www.govtilr.org/Publications/readingsa.html>

Listening: <https://www.govtilr.org/Publications/listenngsa.html>

You can use the ILR self-assessments to estimate your speaking, reading, and listening skills through a series of yes/no questions.

ILR Language Roadmaps

<https://www.govtilr.org/Roadmaps/index.htm>

The ILR Language Roadmaps provide a list of online resources you can use for independent study, categorized by ILR level.

History of the ILR

<https://www.govtilr.org/Skills/IRL%20Scale%20History.htm>

This page describes the development of the ILR scale.

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines

<https://www.actfl.org/resources/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012>

ACTFL, an organization that works to promote quality language teaching and learning, publishes Proficiency Guidelines for Speaking, Writing, Listening, and Reading based on what individuals can do with the language in real-life situations. The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines have five major levels: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice.

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages>

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is another language proficiency scale that was mentioned in the episode. It was also inspired by the ILR and serves as a common international standard of language proficiency.

Foreign Service Institute – Department of State

<https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-management/foreign-service-institute/>

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is the training branch of the Department of State. It offers learning opportunities to U.S. government foreign affairs professionals, including language training through the FSI's School of Language Studies.

U.S. Department of State Careers

<https://www.state.gov/job-seekers/>

This page from the U.S. Department of State provides an overview of the roles of Foreign Service Officers, Foreign Service Specialists, and other career paths mentioned in the episode.

Foreign Service Officers

<https://careers.state.gov/career-paths/worldwide-foreign-service/officer/>

Foreign Service Officers (FSOs), or U.S. Diplomats, serve at embassies and consulates to protect American citizens and promote the interests of the United States abroad. FSOs work in one of five career tracks: Consular, Economics, Management, Political, and Public Diplomacy.

Foreign Service Specialists

<https://careers.state.gov/career-paths/worldwide-foreign-service/specialist/>

Foreign Service Specialists (FSSs) are professionals that serve in specialized functions to assist the Foreign Service abroad. FSS jobs are grouped into six categories: Administration; Building Construction, Operations, and Maintenance; Information Technology; Educational and Cultural Affairs; Law Enforcement and Security; and Medical and Health.

Additional Resources

CIA Foreign Language Proficiency Scale Videos

<https://www.cia.gov/careers/language-opportunities/foreign-language-proficiency-scale/>

This video series from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) describes the ILR scale from levels 0 to 5 to help you place your own speaking skills in your language. Each video features people speaking with different levels of proficiency in English.