

## Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Language Proficiency Ratings

Indicate your language proficiency using the following numeric Interagency Language Roundtable/Foreign Service Institute levels. (For example, French S5/R4; Spanish S3/R3.) The following are brief descriptions of proficiency levels 2, 3, 4, and 5. '**S**' indicates speaking ability and '**R**' indicates reading ability. For more in-depth description of the levels refer to USAID Handbook 28.

### 2: **Limited working proficiency**

- 2S Able to satisfy routine special demands and limited work requirements.
- 2R Sufficient comprehension to read simple, authentic written material in a form equivalent to usual printing or typescript on familiar subjects.

### 3: **General professional proficiency**

- 3S Able to speak the language with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations.
- 3R Able to read within a normal range of speed and with almost complete comprehension.

### 4: **Advanced professional proficiency**

- 4S Able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels.
- 4R Nearly native ability to read and understand extremely difficult or abstract prose, colloquialisms and slang.

### 5: **Functional native proficiency**

- 5S Speaking proficiency is functionally equivalent to that of a highly articulate well-educated native speaker.
- 5R Reading proficiency is functionally equivalent to that of the well-educated native reader.