



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE PRACTICE MATERIALS

This information will be useful to you in preparing for a Credentialed Community Language test. The practice materials will give you a good indication of how it feels to take the CCL test. To use these materials effectively you will need to record your responses. These materials consist of two practice dialogues replicating what a candidate experiences during the CCL test.

As a guide, use the practice materials as follows:

1. Prepare by setting up playback and recording devices in a quiet room. You will need a device to play the practice materials on and a recording device to record both the test as well as your responses.
2. Prepare the recording device so that it is ready to record. It would be worthwhile having a test run to ensure that both the playback of the practice materials and your responses are audible.
3. Start the recorder. Then start the player with the recorded sample test materials. You should:
 - a. Pause the sample test player after you hear a chime.
 - b. Interpret each of the segments (a chime will indicate the end of a segment) into the other language.
 - c. Restart the sample test player once you have finished interpretation.
 - d. Continue the test, pausing the sample test player and providing the appropriate response each time you hear another chime.
4. To review how you went, you can rewind the recorded materials and listen to your answers or interpretation. Use the typed script of the test to follow your answers and interpretation.



Some other exercises you can try:

- Record passages from the radio and television, listen to them and repeat them in the same language. Try two sentences first, then four, then six... test your limits. If you can record yourself, it will help you to assess your progress as well as help you to become accustomed to talking while being recorded. Then listen to a passage and respond by transferring the meaning into your other language.
- Get someone to read sentences from a paper and then transfer the meaning into your other language 'off the cuff'. This will help you build up your speed.
- You should 'immerse' yourself in the language in which you are least confident; i.e., if your first language is English, listen to and talk as much as you can in the LOTE; if your first language is a LOTE, listen to and use as much English as possible.
- When you are confident with your skills, practise using other practice materials. Record yourself and play it back. Listen to yourself analysing how well you have conveyed the meaning and the clarity of your language.
- Go to government departments and pick up literature in both English and your LOTE. View them critically and try to learn as much terminology as possible. Read magazines and newspapers in both languages to do the same.
- Ask someone to read short passages to you (about 20-40 words). Reproduce these as accurately as you can in the other language, without taking notes.

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