

NGT Functional Assessment (NFA) Rating Scale*

With Corresponding CEFR Rating Level†

CEFR Rating†	CEFR Descriptor (Fluency)†	NFA Rating	NFA Descriptor
C2	Can express him/herself spontaneously at length with a natural colloquial flow, avoiding or backtracking around any difficulty so smoothly that the interlocutor is hardly aware of it.	Superior	Can have a fully shared conversation, with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics. Very broad sign language vocabulary, native-like or near native-like production and fluency, excellent use of sign language grammatical features, and excellent comprehension for normal signing rate.
C1	Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly. Only a conceptually difficult subject can hinder a natural, smooth flow of language.	Ad- vanced	Can have a generally shared conversation with good, spontaneous elaboration for both social and work topics. Broad sign language vocabulary knowledge and clear, accurate production of signs and fingerspelling at a normal/near-normal rate; occasional misproductions do not detract from conversational flow. Good use of many sign language grammatical features and comprehension good for normal signing rate.
B2†	Can produce stretches of language with a fairly even tempo; although he/she can be hesitant as he/she searches for patterns and expressions. There are few noticeably long pauses.	Inter- mediate	Can discuss with some confidence routine social and work topics within a conversational format with some elaboration; generally 3-to-5 sentences. Good knowledge and control of everyday/basic sign language vocabulary with some sign vocabulary errors. Fairly clear signing at a moderate signing rate with some sign misproductions. Fair use of some sign language grammatical features and fairly good comprehension for a moderate-to-normal signing rate; a few repetitions and rephrasing of questions may be needed.

CEFR Rating†	CEFR Descriptor (Fluency)†	NFA Rating	NFA Descriptor
B1	Can keep going comprehensibly, even though pausing for grammatical and lexical planning and repair is very evident, especially in longer stretches of free production.	Survival	Can discuss basic social and work topics with responses generally 1-to-3 sentences in length. Some knowledge of basic sign language vocabulary with many sign vocabulary and/or sign production errors. Slow-to-moderate signing rate. Basic use of a few sign language grammatical features. Fair comprehension for signing produced at a slow-to-moderate rate with some repetition and rephrasing.
A2	Can make him/herself understood in very short utterances, even though pauses, false starts and reformulation are very evident.	Novice	Can provide single sign and some short phrase/sentence responses to basic questions signed at a slow-to-moderate rate with frequent repetition and rephrasing. Vocabulary primarily related to everyday work and/or social areas such as basic work-related signs, family members, basic objects, colors, numbers, names of weekdays, and time. Production and fluency characterized by many sign production errors and by a slow rate with frequent inappropriate pauses/hesitations.
A1	Can manage very short, isolated, mainly pre-packaged utterances, with much pausing to search for expressions, to articulate less familiar words, and to repair communication.		

* Adapted (by Geoff Poor, 2011) from the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) Rating Scale developed by Drs. Frank Caccamise and William Newell at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Rochester, NY, USA. <http://www.rit.edu/ntid/slpi>.

† From Council of Europe, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR): Table 3, pp. 28-29 of the English translation.