



## English Language Proficiency Scale

High-level proficiency in written and spoken English is required for the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Qualified applicants should be able to understand questions and converse freely during the interview. Posts should reference this scale to assist in determining the applicant's English language abilities. Competitive Fellowship applicants will generally have scores of 4 (advanced) and 5 (very advanced) on this scale.

	<b>1</b> <i>Absolute Beginner</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Novice</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Intermediate</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Advanced</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Very Advanced</i>
<b>Interpersonal Communication</b>	Applicant cannot recognize any English words or phrases.	Applicant can communicate on some very familiar topics using single words and phrases that they have practiced and memorized.	Applicant can participate in conversations on familiar topics using sentences. They can handle short social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering a variety of questions.	Applicant can talk in an organized way and with some detail about events and experiences in various time frames. They can confidently handle routine situations with unexpected complications.	Applicant can express themselves freely and spontaneously, and for the most part accurately, on concrete topics and on most complex issues. They can usually support their opinions and develop hypotheses on topics of particular interest or expertise.
<b>Presentational Speaking</b>	Applicant cannot speak any English words and phrases.	Applicant can present information about themselves and some very familiar topics using single words or memorized phrases.	Applicant can make presentations on a wide variety of familiar topics using connected sentences.	Applicant can deliver organized presentations appropriate to their audience on a variety of topics. They can present information about events and experiences in various time frames.	Applicant can deliver detailed presentations, usually with accuracy, clarity, and precision on a variety of topics and issues related to community interests and some special fields of expertise.
<b>Listening</b>	Applicant cannot understand any English words and phrases when they hear them spoken.	Applicant can recognize some familiar words and phrases when they hear them spoken.	Applicant can understand the main idea in messages and presentations on a variety of topics related to everyday life and personal interests and studies. They can understand the main idea in conversations that they overhear.	Applicant can understand the main idea and some supporting details in organized speech on a variety of topics of personal and general interest. They can follow stories and descriptions of some length and in various time frames. They can understand information presented in a variety of genres on familiar topics, even when something unexpected is expressed.	Applicant can easily follow narrative, informational, and descriptive speech. They can understand discussions on most topics that deal with special interests, unfamiliar situations, and abstract concepts. They can sometimes follow extended arguments and different points of view.

