If you are an adult learner of an Indigenous language, the following pages are intended to help you understand where you are at in your learning and to support you in keeping track of your progress.

Learning a language requires much dedication and determination. We designed this assessment tool specifically for adult learners of Indigenous languages:

• We recognize that you are likely focusing on speaking and understanding the language -> this assessment tool helps you evaluate how you are doing in these areas;
• We recognize that you may identify your own language goals, rather than follow a pre-set curriculum -> this assessment tool looks at general language skills, rather than asking you about grammar or vocabulary;
• We recognize that you may feel worried about assessing how you are doing in your language learning -> this tool is meant to help you reflect on what you CAN do, to help you figure out what you want to focus on next, and to keep track of how your skills are increasing over time.

If you are in a formal Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) now, we suggest you fill out this tool after every ~50 hours of learning. However, the tool is designed to support learners in any type of learning context. On the next page, you will find some guidelines on how to use this tool.

This assessment tool was developed as part of a larger Partnership Development Grant project. We are working to understand more about adult Indigenous language learning in Canada and specifically British Columbia. Our research was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
Guidelines on using the Language Learning Assessment Tool

1. Fill in the section “About the Language Learner” on the next page, including the date & your name;
2. You can fill out this assessment tool on your own or with someone who is supporting you in your learning, e.g. your mentor. If someone else is filling in the answers with or for you, please write down their name and role in your learning process as well;
3. Next, there is a place to write down the language you are learning and assessing today;
4. If you keep track of it, write down the number of hours of language learning you have completed;
5. There is a section for you to reflect on your language learning first, if you want;
6. Start the actual assessment with the first level ‘Beginner’, and complete both areas, ‘Speaking’ and ‘Understanding’;
7. Read each “I can . . .” statement and think about which answer BEST describes where you are at in your learning today;
8. Put a mark in the field of your answer, or colour in the field, or circle it – anything to take note of where you are at in your learning today. Please choose only one field;
9. You will see there are some blank “I can . . .” fields throughout. Here, you can add your own language learning goals and skills that you wish to track as you progress, specific to your context of learning;
10. When you are ready, you can move on to the ‘Intermediate’ pages.
About the Language Learner

Date: ___________________

Name of Language Learner: ________________________________

If not the learner, who filled in form: _______________________

Language assessed today: _________________________________

Number of hours of language learning completed: ___________

A Place to reflect on your Language Learning *(optional)*

Below are three points you may wish to reflect on, as a “warm-up” or “wrap-up”, in addition to filling out this Language Learning Assessment Tool. You can write down your answers here, so that you can come back to your thoughts at a later time:

For my language learning, I worked a lot on …

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

I’m really proud of …

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Something I’d like to get better at is…

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Language Learning Assessment Tool

Speaking – Beginner

SCALE
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;
‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;
‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;
‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;
‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.
Language Learning Assessment Tool
Speaking – Beginner

SCALE
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;
‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;
‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;
‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;
‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can say words and phrases in a way so that other speakers of my language can understand me.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can use verbs to describe what happened in the past.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can use verbs to describe what happened in the past.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can say most of the sounds of the language.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can say some words and phrases about a few things that I like to do.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can say a few basic questions with single words or short phrases.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can repeat when someone doesn’t understand me.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can say words to talk about a familiar topic.

I can ____________
________________
________________
________________

I can imitate the rhythm of someone talking in my language.
Language Learning Assessment Tool
Understanding – Beginner

SCALE
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;
‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;
‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;
‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;
‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.

I can understand some phrases when accompanied by pictures or props.
I can understand short or simple sentences.
I can understand short or simple conversations about familiar topics.
I can understand simple questions about me, such as my name and where I come from.
I can understand survival questions when asked.
I can understand descriptions when my mentor uses simple words and points to related things in our surroundings.
I can follow simple requests when accompanied with gestures.
I can understand some things with lots of repetition.
I can understand frequently used words.
I can recognize parts of words, even if I don’t understand the whole word or sentence.
I can recognize individual words in longer sentences, even if I don’t understand the whole sentence yet.
I can play a simple game in the language.
Language Learning Assessment Tool

Understanding – Beginner

SCALE
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;
‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;
‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;
‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;
‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.

I can understand when people speak slowly and clearly.
I can understand predictable questions on familiar topics.
I can follow instructions for routine activities.
I can follow simple requests without gestures.
I can understand who the speaker is speaking about, e.g. herself/himself, me, someone else or more than one person.
I can hear the differences between the sounds (or letters) of my language when I pronounce them.
I can hear the differences between the sounds (or letters) of my language when my mentor pronounces them.
I can listen to songs and understand some of the words.
I can hear a difference in the language spoken in public compared to when I learn with my mentor.

Dr. Onowa McIvor & Dr. Peter Jacobs
Contact: 250-721-7763 | omcivor@uvic.ca | pejacobs@uvic.ca | bje@uvic.ca
Language Learning Assessment Tool
Speaking – Intermediate

SCALE
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;
‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;
‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;
‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;
‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.

I can talk about people and things near me and also far away.
I can initiate a conversation and choose a topic.
I can give details about what I’m doing.
I can give details about what someone is doing in front of me.
I can give details about the place I live.
I can talk about something that is happening now.
I can ask questions about a specific topic.
I can talk about my language learning activities.
I can use different words to say the same thing.
I speak with little or no hesitation.
I can say several words without pausing.
I can give detailed answers to questions.
I can talk about something that is happening now.
I can give details about what someone is doing in front of me.
I can give details about the place I live.
Language Learning Assessment Tool

Speaking – Intermediate

**SCALE**
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;

‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;

‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;

‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;

‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.

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I can give details about what people are doing somewhere else.

I can say several sentences in my turn in the conversation.

I can describe objects in familiar surroundings.

I can talk about objects not in my immediate view.

I can use my language skills whenever I have the opportunity to speak my language.

I can say a prayer in my language.

I can pronounce sounds just as well as I hear them.

I can use different words when I don’t know the right word.

I can imitate the rhythm of the language.
Language Learning Assessment Tool

Understanding – Intermediate

SCALE
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;
‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;
‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;
‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;
‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.

I can recognize familiar words in a sentence and guess what the sentence is about.

I understand day-to-day language on topics that I’m familiar with.

I can catch the main point in a short and simple conversation.

I can understand questions about my personal experience.

I understand simple sentences with occasional repetition.

I understand short, simple, common messages.

I understand simple questions about other people.

I can understand more complex sentences with occasional repetition.

I can identify parts of a sentence that I don’t understand.

I understand simple sentences.

I understand short, simple, common messages.

I understand simple questions about other people.

I understand more complex sentences with occasional repetition.

I can identify parts of a sentence that I don’t understand.

I understand simple sentences.

I understand short, simple, common messages.

I understand simple questions about other people.

I understand more complex sentences with occasional repetition.

I can identify parts of a sentence that I don’t understand.

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Language Learning Assessment Tool

Understanding – Intermediate

SCALE
(select one answer that best describes where you are at in your learning today):

‘Not yet’—this is something new to you;
‘Rarely’—this is something that you’ve noticed, but you’ve only done it a few times or in a few contexts so far;
‘Sometimes’—this is something that you are more familiar with and you notice you are doing in a number of different contexts;
‘Mostly’—this is something that you are familiar with and that you’ve become good at doing in a wide variety of contexts;
‘Always’—this is something that you know well and you are confident in doing it all the time and in all contexts.

I can understand extended spoken language if I’m familiar with the topic.
I can understand the speech of two or more different speakers equally well.
I can understand simple oral storytelling.
I can understand the main points in discussions involving home activities.
I can understand some of the words and the gist of ceremonial speech.
I can have discussions on familiar topics at a normal rate of speech.
I can understand extended spoken language spoken on unfamiliar topics.
I can reflect on things that were said that I didn’t understand and then understand.
I can understand old recordings of my language.
I can follow discussions on familiar topics at a normal rate of speech.
I can understand simple oral storytelling.
I can understand the main points in discussions involving home activities.
I can understand some of the words and the gist of ceremonial speech.
I can have discussions on familiar topics at a normal rate of speech.