

STARTALK Language Functions for Lesson Can-Do's

Language functions describe how we use language in our daily lives. Interpretive functions convey how learners might express understanding without being asked to produce language too quickly. Interpersonal and presentational functions convey the purpose for speaking or writing by identifying the basic task that a person must be able to do in order to communicate effectively in a given situation.

The following is a listing of possible language functions to make it easier to identify appropriate functions that might be used by learners and teachers to **process input** or **produce language output**. These language functions drive the development of lesson can-do statements.



Processing Language INPUT

How will learners demonstrate understanding of new vocabulary/language chunks? (Interpretive Mode)

- catalogue
- categorize
- choose
- classify
- determine
- distinguish
- evaluate
- find
- identify
- indicate
- isolate
- label
- list
- match
- order
- recognize
- respond to questions
- select
- sort
- sequence



Producing Language OUTPUT

How will learners use language to communicate in spoken or written conversations and presentations? (Interpersonal or Presentational Mode)

- agree/disagree
- argue
- ask for information
- compare/contrast
- compose
- construct
- create
- critique
- define
- describe (people, places, events, objects, processes)
- document
- explain
- express
- give examples or supporting details
- illustrate
- infer
- instruct
- justify
- label
- list
- maintaining a conversation
- narrate
- negotiate
- outline
- organize
- paraphrase
- present information
- recommend recount experiences/events
- request
- respond
- report
- restate
- rewrite
- retell
- sequence
- suggest
- summarize