



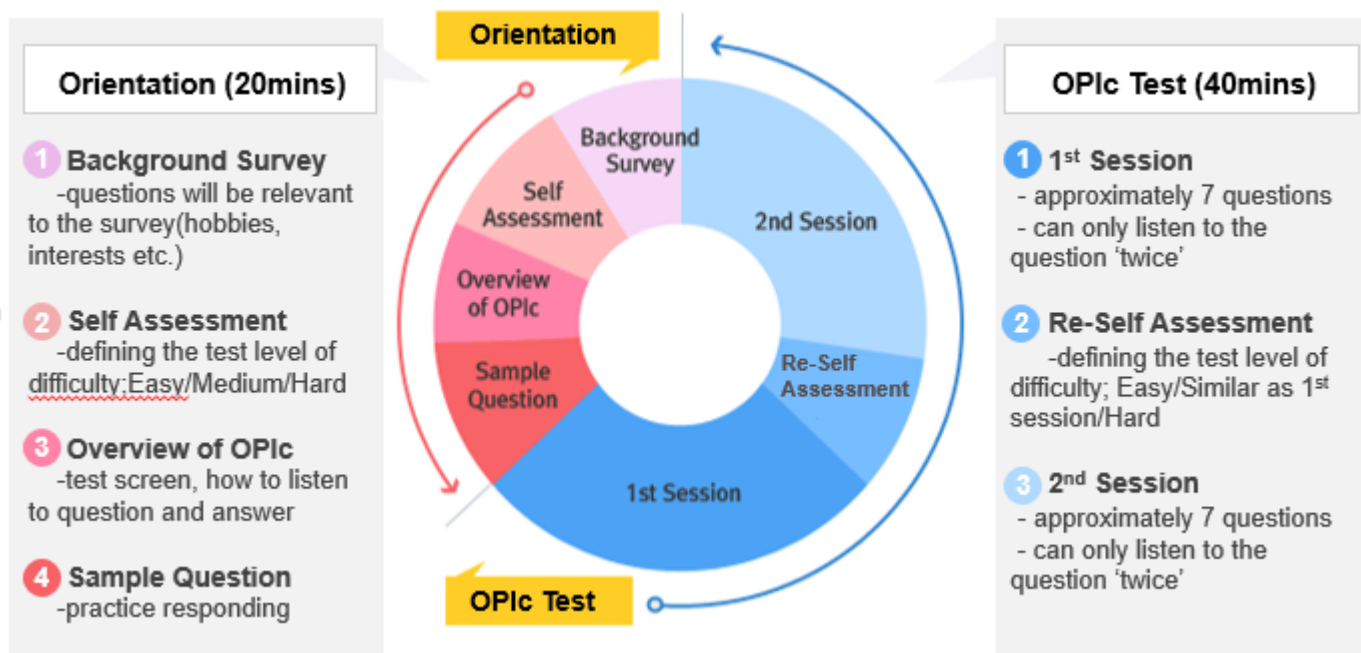
## Oral Proficiency Interview-computer

### Understanding the Speaking Test

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- OPIc is an interview-type test. The question topics are generally based on the student's background survey (hobby, interest, sports, travel etc.)
- a certified examiner will evaluate the recorded student's response.
- the questions are played via an audio recording; the student can replay the audio once more (the student can listen to the question twice)
- the content of the OPIc Speaking test is similar to that of a business/personal interview.
- **duration: the OPIc Speaking test takes approximately 40 minutes**  
*(There is no time limit per question – the student decides to move on to the next question once he/she is done responding, but normally 2mins-2mins 30sec is recommended per question)*
- there will be a 20min-orientation before the actual test (composed of session 1 and session 2) begins.
- the candidates will do a self-assessment (easy/medium/hard) of the test during the orientation. After session 1 ends, there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> self-assessment (easy/similar to session 1/harder). Session 2 questions will be described (easy/similar/hard) depending on the assessment.

## Test Process



(image source: [www.opic.or.kr](http://www.opic.or.kr))

## Background Survey

- The Background Survey is a questionnaire which elicits information about the test taker's work, school, home, personal activities and interests.
- The test taker completes the survey and the answers determine the pool of topics from which the computer will randomly select questions.
- The variety of topics, the types of questions, and the range of possible combinations the computer can generate allow for individually designed interviews. Even if two test takers selected the same combination of Background Survey responses, the resulting test would not be the same.

## Self-Assessment

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- The Self-Assessment provides different descriptions of how well a person can speak a language.
- Test takers select the description that they feel most accurately describes their language ability.
- Samples of speech accompany each descriptor, so test takers can also listen to samples to help select the most appropriate description.
- The Self-Assessment choice determines which one of the OPIc test forms (Form 1, Form 2, Form 3) is generated for the specific individual.
- The choices made by the test taker in response to the Background Survey and the Self-Assessment ensure that each test taker receives an adaptive and unique test.

## Purpose of the test

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The examiner will want to see how well a candidate can:

- communicate fluently about everyday topics and common experiences
- speak at length on a given topic using a wide range of vocabulary list
- organize sentences coherently
- react to a given situation and do a role-play like a real conversation
- relax and speak naturally

## Questions (12-15 questions per person)

- **The questions will be based on the background survey done by the applicant.**
  - ✓ **The first question will start with a self-introduction.**
  - ✓ **Most questions will be about describing personal experiences (swimming, camping, biking etc.)**
  - ✓ **There will be questions asking about the test-taker's ideas, opinions or preferences regarding a certain topic.**
  - ✓ **The candidate should relax and talk naturally**

## OPIc Assessment Level (ACTFL 2012 Guideline)

Level		Level Description
<b>AL</b>	Advanced LOW	The test-takers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future in paragraph-length discourse to a certain degree. Can handle the essential linguistic challenges presented by a complicated situation.
<b>IH</b>	Intermediate HIGH	Able to converse with ease and confidence when dealing with the routine tasks and situations of the Intermediate level. Can narrate and describe in all major time frames using connected discourse of paragraph length, but not all the time.
<b>IM</b>	Intermediate MID (1,2,3)	Intermediate MID is divided into 3 more levels based on fluency, delivery and construction. The test-takers can interact well, for example, by responding to direct questions or requests for information.
<b>IL</b>	Intermediate LOW	Able to successfully handle a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Also able to ask a few appropriate questions. Their responses are often filled with moments of hesitation.
<b>NH</b>	Novice HIGH	Able to successfully manage a number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations. Conversation is restricted to a few of the predictable topics; the test-takers are able to answer a few formulaic questions.
<b>NM</b>	Novice MID	Can communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases. They pause frequently as they search for simple vocabulary and when they need to expand the topics, they resort to repetition or silence.
<b>NL</b>	Novice LOW	Given adequate time and familiar cues, they may be able to exchange greetings, introduce themselves, and name a number of familiar objects from their immediate environment.

## Criteria for Assessment

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The following criteria is considered for evaluating:

- the grammar, vocabulary and sentence construction of the test-taker's response
- the accuracy with which tasks are understood and accomplished
- the pronunciation, intonation, fluency and coherence of the test-taker

## OPIc Test tips

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### Do-s

- Respond by sharing your own story, not someone else's.
- Respond in 1~2minutes. (recommended)
- Use the "replay" button to earn time for brainstorming. (allowed to listen to the question one more time through the audio in the actual test)
- Tell a story: describe an experience related to the question.
- A consistent speed and tone of voice is more important than speaking only in a loud voice.
- Study many OPIc questions and have a brainstorming session beforehand.

### Don't-s

- Do not memorize responses beforehand. Practice speaking with a natural accent and pronunciation.
- Be careful not to respond in a voice too low or to slur the end of your sentence.