

Language Function Verbs for the NYS Learning Standards for World Languages

Key language functions are embedded in each of the communication standards in the NYS Learning Standards for World Languages. Language functions identify the purpose for communication. Each key language functions can be carried out at each proficiency level. The purpose of this reference document is to assist teachers in writing unit- and lesson-level Can-Do Statements by suggesting verbs that can illustrate each of the key language functions explicitly named in the standards.



Interpretive Communication

Learners **understand**, **interpret**, and **analyze** what is heard, read, received, or viewed on a variety of topics, including a range of diverse texts, including authentic resources.

Understand

- Identify...
 - cognates; topic; facts; main idea; sequence of events; supporting details
- Label
- List
- Match

Interpret

- Compare
- Identify...
 - intended audience; purpose of a text
- Infer meaning from context
- Make...
 - predictions; inferences

Analyze

- Classify
- Identify
 - point of view; tone; cultural perspectives; cultural comparisons
- React



Interpersonal Communication

Learners interact and negotiate meaning in spontaneous spoken, visual, or written communication to **exchange information** and **express feelings, preferences, and opinions**.

Exchange Information

- Ask or Give...
 - someone's name; someone's age
 - directions; excuses; help; ideas; information; news; reasons; reminders; suggestions; warnings
- Ask or Tell...
 - future plans; past events; a secret
 - *What...*a price is; is happening; someone needs; someone used to do
 - *Where...*someone is; something is located; something is taking place
- Describe...
 - a person; a place; a thing
- Greet someone or say goodbye
- Identify or introduce someone
- Make...
 - arrangements to meet; comparisons; observations; plans; purchases or returns
- Offer, Accept, or Refuse...
 - food; invitations; requests

Express (Exchange) Feelings

- Ask or Tell about...
 - feelings; health; illness; wellness
- Complain
- Express...
 - annoyance; boredom; certainty; concern; disappointment; displeasure; disbelief; doubt; empathy; excitement; fear; hesitation; impatience; indecision; interest; relief; satisfaction; surprise; sympathy; wishes
- Offer or Respond to...
 - an apology; condolences; congratulations; criticism; encouragement; good wishes; regrets; thanks

Interpersonal Communication
continued on next page.



Interpersonal Communication (cont'd)

Learners interact and negotiate meaning in spontaneous spoken, visual, or written communication to **exchange information** and **express feelings, preferences, and opinions**.

Express (Exchange) Preferences

- Ask for or Make...
 - recommendations; suggestions
- Accept or Give...
 - advice; permission; prohibitions; warnings
- Accept or Reject...
 - advice; recommendations; requests; suggestions
- Express or React to...
 - likes and dislikes; preferences

Express (Exchange) Opinions

- Agree or Disagree
- Ask for or Express Opinions
- Brag
- Criticize
- Express...
 - Boredom; dissatisfaction; enthusiasm; indifference; satisfaction
- Pay or Respond to a Compliment
- Tease



Presentational Communication

Learners present information and ideas on a variety of topics adapted to various audiences of listeners, readers, or viewers to **describe, inform, narrate, explain, or persuade**.

Describe

- Describe...
 - people; plans; places; things

Inform

- Give...
 - directions; information; names; a summary
- Make...
 - announcements; comparisons; observations
- Tell...
 - someone's age; the time; prices
 - *How often...* someone does something; something happens
 - *What...* someone needs; someone does
 - *Where...* events, people, or things are located

Narrate

- Identify...
 - people, places, times
- Narrate...
 - habitual actions; what people used to do; what something or someone used to be like
 - future events; past events
 - a story or anecdote's beginning, middle, and end

Explain

- Compare
- Draw conclusions
- Give examples
- Make connections
- Offer or Reject...
 - possible explanations; ideas

Persuade

- Advise
- Agree or disagree
- Criticize
- Forbid something
- Express...
 - feelings; opinions; preferences
- Give...
 - advice; reasons; reminder; warning
- Justify
- Make...
 - arguments; excuses; recommendations; suggestions
- Tell...
 - someone what to do