



uOttawa



PASSEPORT PASSPORT

Institut des langues officielles et du bilinguisme
Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute

WHY LINGUISTIC RISK-TAKING?

A linguistic risk is an authentic, every-day communication task that some language learners may shy away from and may need special encouragement to engage in. Research has shown that some learners hesitate to take risks and do not always benefit from extra opportunities to practice their second or additional language outside of the language classroom. Real-life communication is not stress-free. It may involve “risk factors” such as making mistakes, being misunderstood, misunderstanding others, taking on a different identity, changing language use habits, and so on. That is why some learners tend to stay within the comfort zone of their preferred language when going about their daily business on campus and thus miss out on opportunities to “live” bilingually or multilingually. This passport intends to encourage you to take various linguistic risks that will boost your confidence in your second or additional language. The passport will guide you in turning your daily routines into linguistic risks and in using our bilingual campus and multilingual uOGlobal community as a real-life language-learning resource. This passport is designed for French or English as target languages. However, in many cases you can extend its use to other languages that you may be learning.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

It's simple and it's fun:

- Take as many risks as possible from the list included in this passport. You can even take a picture of yourself taking the risk and post it on social media with #.
- Give yourself a check mark for each risk taken:
 - ◊ **Most risks can be repeated up to three times (see number of checkboxes by each risk);**
 - ◊ **Risks can be taken in any order you like;**
 - ◊ **You do not need to undertake all risks listed;**
 - ◊ **Each time you undertake a risk, indicate whether you thought the level of risk was High, Medium, or Low by adding the corresponding letter (H, M, or L) beside the checkbox.**
- Feel free to use the blank passport pages provided at the back to propose additional risks.
- Tally the risks you have taken. After completing at least 20 risks (including repeated ones), submit the passport to your language teacher or to the OLBI reception desk (MHN 130) to enter a draw for prizes. If you are participating in uOGlobal, submit your passport to your facilitator during a workshop or at the reception of the International Office (TBT M386).
- Submissions for the draw will be accepted from _____ until _____.
- If you win a prize, you will receive it in your language class or you will be notified by email.
- Make sure you enter a valid uOttawa email address.

LINGUISTIC RISKS

Most risks can be repeated up to three times (see number of checkboxes by each risk); no particular order is required; please rate each risk as High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L) each time you undertake it.

Example #1: I read the rules of engagement of the linguistic risk-taking passport.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Example #2: I talked about the linguistic risk-taking passport with a friend.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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Oral interactions

1. I used English at uOttawa's Health Services.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

2. I spoke English at the Julien Couture Resource Centre (MHN 02).

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

3. I signed up for an English conversation group at the Julien Couture Resource Centre.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

4. I had a service encounter/reception desk transaction on campus in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

5. I left a voicemail in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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6. I ordered food on campus in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

7. I spoke to a loved one in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

8. I used English at a campus recreation location (e.g. gym, pool, etc.).

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

9. I stopped someone on campus and asked for the time in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

10. I stopped someone on campus and asked for directions to a building in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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11. I told a friend about the Linguistic Risk-Taking Passport in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

12. I used English at a uOttawa library circulation desk.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

13. I used English at a uOttawa library help desk.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

14. I used English at the uOttawa parking office.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

15. I used English when I requested support from uOttawa's IT Service Desk.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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16. I spoke English to a uOttawa professor outside of class.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

17. I spoke English to a uOttawa staff member.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

18. I used English at the OLBI reception desk (MHN 130).

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

19. I used English at my residence hall.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

20. I used English at the docUcentre.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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21. I used English at the uOttawa bookstore.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

22. I applied for a job on uOttawa campus where I will need to use English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

23. I used English to speak to a high-ranking uOttawa official (e.g. at a Dean's office or at a high manager's office).

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

24. I spoke English to a friend with whom I normally speak French.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

25. I made a phone call in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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26. I went to a party and spoke English there.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

27. I met a new person and spoke to her/him in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

28. I found a volunteering opportunity in English through the Michaëlle-Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement (UCU 312).

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

29. I went to karaoke and sang a song in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

30. I used English at work.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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31. I helped someone who does not speak English by translating for her/him.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

32. I asked for service in English at a museum, a government building, or a community centre.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

33. I called a toll-free number (1-800) and chose to be served in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

34. I bought a bus ticket or made other travel arrangements in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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35. I had a job interview in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

36. I used English when traveling in Canada or abroad.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Writing and editing

37. I sent an email to a uOttawa professor in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

38. I sent an email to a uOttawa staff member in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

39. I prepared a resume or a cover letter in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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40. I sent a text message in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

41. I made a social media post in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

42. I submitted a class assignment or a paper in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

43. I contributed to an online forum/ discussion board in English (e.g reddit)

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

44. I filled out a form in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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Reading

45. I read a book or a magazine in English.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

46. I read a news article in English.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

47. I switched the language of my smart phone or tablet to English for one day.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

48. I switched the language of my smart phone or tablet to English for one week.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

49. I switched the language of my smart phone or tablet to English permanently.

1: H M L

Comments:

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50. I switched the language on my computer to English for one day.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

51. I switched the language on my computer to English for one week.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

52. I switched the language on my computer to English permanently.

1: H M L

53. I borrowed English material from the Julien Couture Resource Centre.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

54. I used uoZone, Google Apps or Virtual Campus in English.

1: H M L

2: H M L

3: H M L

Comments:

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55. I received a bilingual email and read the English part.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

56. I read a newsletter in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

57. I checked out apt613.ca/ to find an event or activity in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

58. I used a dictionary, an online corpus, or another source to look up 10 new words in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

59. I prepared food following a recipe in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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60. I borrowed English material from a uOttawa library.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Listening

61. I attended an event on campus (e.g. activity, lecture, etc.) in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

62. I listened to 5 songs by Canadian artists in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

63. I subscribed to a podcast feed in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

64. I listened to a radio station in English for an hour.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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65. I watched a movie or a show at home in English with French subtitles.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

66. I watched a movie or a show at home in English without subtitles.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

67. I went to see a play in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

68. I watched a YouTube video in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

69. I saw a movie at a movie theatre in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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70. I watched my favourite sport on TV in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Others

71. I enrolled in OLBI's Second Language Certification Course in English (ESL3100).

1: H M L

72. I would be interested in taking an OLBI community-based language learning class in English, if available.

1: H M L

73. I downloaded and used a smartphone app in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

74. I enrolled in a hybrid language course at uOttawa.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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Risks proposed by students

75. I created a playlist with favorite songs in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

76. I spoke English to a client at my work.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

77. I had a meal with an English speaker and we spoke English the whole time.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

78. I spoke English when I helped a friend who broke up with a loved one.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

79. I took an audio tour or a guided tour in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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80. When I buy groceries, I read the list of ingredients in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

81. I spoke to the doctor in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

82. I signed up for a webinar in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

83. I activated a new credit/debit card using English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

84. I used English at the bank.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:

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85. I spoke to my cell phone provider in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

86. I babysat or tutored someone in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

87. I used Google Maps or a GPS in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

88. I ordered pizza on the phone or online in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

89. I spoke to my siblings in English.

1: H M L
2: H M L
3: H M L

Comments:
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LINGUISTIC RISK-TAKER PROFILE

I am eager to use my second official language everywhere on campus and beyond!

I am not a native speaker of this language and I am okay with that!

Yes, I may have an accent but that's what makes me unique!

I am not afraid of making errors; they are natural and normal in language use!

I consider myself bilingual in French and English (even if one of my two official languages may be stronger than the other one).

SELF-ASSESSMENT

After having completed the passport...

1. I am more comfortable speaking English with strangers.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
2. I am more comfortable speaking English with people I know.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
3. Overall, I am more comfortable taking risks in English.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
4. I am more likely to communicate in English outside of the classroom.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
5. I am inspired to use English more often.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
6. My confidence in English has improved.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
7. This passport has helped me discover new opportunities for practising English.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
8. Overall, this experience had a positive impact on my English skills.
Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

PROPOSE YOUR OWN RISKS

Use these blank pages to describe additional risks that you may have undertaken (optional). Please rate each risk as High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L).

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If you want to share your risks with others, send them to us by e-mail at lingrisk@uOttawa.ca and we can post them on our website and on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages (#...).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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ccerbal.uOttawa.ca/linguistic-risk/

lingrisk@uOttawa.ca

OLBI's reception desk: MHN 130

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#RiskLing

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