Levels of Proficiency

How fast you learn a language depends on which language you are learning and on how you approach the task. You learn a language quicker if it is closely related to a language you already know. An English speaker learns Spanish, French, or German faster than he does Czech, Korean, or Japanese. A Chinese speaker, on the other hand, learns Korean, Japanese, or Thai faster than he learns English or Italian. (See chart below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Proficiency</th>
<th>hours</th>
<th>Level 2A-B</th>
<th>hours</th>
<th>Level 3A-B</th>
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<th>Level 4A-B</th>
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<th>Level 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Functioning</td>
<td>80-120</td>
<td>100-150</td>
<td>120-180</td>
<td>Limited Proficiency</td>
<td>160-240</td>
<td>200-300</td>
<td>240-360</td>
<td>Adequate Proficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adequate Proficiency</td>
<td>240-360</td>
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<td>Full Proficiency</td>
<td>320-480</td>
<td>460-690</td>
<td>600-900</td>
<td>Near-Native Proficiency</td>
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Source: www.languageintelligence.com
Level 1A-B Basic Functioning
Get along in basic social, travel and business situations

♦ Understand greetings, announcements, courteous and useful expressions, time and directions;
♦ Meet and greet people, introduce others, extend invitations, order in a restaurant, book lodgings;
♦ Make a simple phone call to set up an appointment;
♦ Answer slowly spoken questions by a native speaker accustomed to foreign visitors;
♦ Give biographical information about yourself, family and associates;
♦ Read signs, short phrases and instructions;
♦ Compose basic sentences; write a brief note or e-mail.

Level 2A-B Limited Proficiency
Handle matters of every-day life

♦ Understand simple statements, questions and instructions on subjects of personal and professional interest;
♦ Talk in past, present and future tense about yourself, work, business and company;
♦ Make an uncomplicated job-oriented presentation;
♦ Make inquiries about everyday matters of some complexity;
♦ Discuss general subjects with native speakers;
♦ Read faxes and general business letters, compose paragraphs understandable to a native speaker;
♦ Write brief personal letters and jot down essential information.

Level 3A-B Adequate Proficiency
Work with native speakers on projects and handle unexpected situations

♦ Able to follow negotiations and to make contributions, both on concrete and abstract topics;
♦ Give clear explanations and handle ensuing queries; Make detailed inquiries;
♦ Request elucidation of misunderstandings using exact logical sentences;
♦ Participate in general conversation that may include use of hypothetical issues, in a group of native speakers;
♦ Understand a number of idiomatic expressions;
♦ Read newspaper articles and technical papers and understand their essence;
♦ Write quite understandable reports, business letters and faxes.

Level 4A-B Full Proficiency
Be an equal partner in general and business discussions with native speakers

♦ Follow conversations at normal speed between two native speakers, on subject matter within your experience;
♦ Command of the language is adequate to lead meetings and negotiations;
♦ Deliver efficient presentations and convincing addresses;
♦ Able to defend your point of view;
♦ Get information from persons who do not cooperate willingly and insist on a statement of particulars;
♦ Deal with unexpected, delicate or painful situations;
♦ Read and understand all styles and forms in newspapers and magazines;
♦ Write comprehensive business letters, reports, and drafts of contracts requiring fluent and accurate use of the written language.

Level 5 Near-Native Proficiency
Able to speak, read and write the language as an educated native speaker

♦ You are truly in command of the language;
♦ Recognize, understand and use delicate variations in tone and meaning;
♦ Employ a broad vocabulary;
♦ Use the palette of synonyms and antonyms with sophistication in relevant social and cultural context;
♦ Understand and use idioms appropriately;
♦ Have also mastered all previous levels