

Communicative and Academic Functions

Tedick adapted Mary Finocchiaro's functional categories (Finocchiaro & Brumfit, 1983, pp. 65-66), which include five major categories: personal, interpersonal, directive, referential, and imaginative. Specific examples of functions under each category appear below (note that not all possibilities are included; instead, an array of functions is listed to exemplify each category). Academic functions have been adapted by Tedick from Chamot & O'Malley (1994) and O'Malley & Pierce (1996).

Sources:

Chamot, A.U. & O'Malley, J. M. (1994). *The CALLA handbook: Implementing the cognitive academic language learning approach*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.

Finocchiaro, M. & Brumfit, C. (1983). *The functional-notional approach*. NY: Oxford University Press.

O'Malley, M. & Valdez Pierce, L. (1996). *Authentic assessment for English language learners*. White Plains, NY: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.

Personal

- clarifying or arranging one's ideas
- expressing one's thoughts or feelings (love, joy, pleasure, happiness, surprise, likes and dislikes, satisfaction, disappointment, distress, pain, anger, anguish, fear, anxiety, sorrow, frustration, annoyance at missed opportunities, etc.)
- expressing moral, intellectual, and social concerns
- expressing the everyday feelings of hunger, thirst, fatigue, sleepiness, cold, and warmth

Interpersonal

- greetings and leave-takings
- introducing people to others
- identifying oneself to others
- expressing joy at another's success (or disappointment at another's misfortune)
- expressing concern for other people's welfare
- extending and accepting invitations
- refusing invitations politely or making alternative arrangements
- making appointments for meetings
- breaking appointments politely and arranging another mutually convenient time
- apologizing
- excusing oneself and accepting excuses for not meeting commitments
- indicating agreement or disagreement
- interrupting another speaker politely

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- changing an embarrassing subject
- receiving visitors and paying visits to others
- arguing or debating
- offering food or drinks and accepting or declining such offers politely
- sharing wishes, hopes, desires, problems, beliefs, thoughts, opinions, etc.
- asking about others' wishes, hopes, desires, problems, beliefs, thoughts, opinions, etc.
- making promises and committing oneself to some action
- complimenting someone
- making excuses

Directive

- accepting or refusing direction
- making suggestions in which the speaker is included
- persuading someone to change his/her point of view
- requesting and granting permission
- requesting information
- asking for help and responding to a plea for help
- forbidding someone to do something; issuing a command
- giving and responding to instructions or directions
- warning someone
- discouraging someone from pursuing a course of action
- establishing guidelines and deadlines for the completion of actions
- asking for directions or instructions

Referential

- talking or reporting about things, actions, events, or people in the environment
- identifying items or people in the classroom, the school, the home, the community
- asking for a description of someone or something
- describing someone or something
- understanding messages or descriptions
- creating questions

Developed by D. Tedick

- scanning or skimming for information
- paraphrasing, summarizing, or translating (L1 to L2 or vice versa)
- interpreting information
- explaining or asking for explanations of how something works
- comparing or contrasting things
- discussing possibilities, probabilities, or capabilities of doing something
- requesting or reporting facts about events or actions or about a text
- hypothesizing
- formulating and supporting opinions
- evaluating the results of an action or an event

Imaginative

- discussing a poem, a story, a text, an advertisement, a piece of music, a play, a painting, a film, a TV program, etc.
- story-telling, narrating events
- experiencing and/or discussing a simulation (e.g., of an historical event)
- expanding ideas suggested by others or by a piece of reading
- creating rhymes, poetry, stories, plays, or scripts
- recombining familiar dialogues or passages creatively
- suggesting original beginnings or endings to dialogues or stories
- solving problems or mysteries

Academic

- seeking information/informing—observe and explore the environment, acquire information, inquire, identify, report, or describe information
- informing—recount information provided by a teacher/text; retell a story or personal experience
- comparing—describe similarities and differences in objects or ideas
- ordering—sequence objects, ideas, events
- classifying—group objects or ideas according to their characteristics
- analyzing—separate whole into parts; identify relationships and patterns
- inferring—make inferences, predict implications, hypothesize
- justifying and persuading—give reasons for an action, decision, point of view; convince others

Developed by D. Tedick

- solving problems—define/present a problem and determine a solution
- synthesizing—combine or integrate ideas to form a whole
- evaluating—assess and verify worth of an object, idea or decision