

Some helpful hints for how to better prepare for the OPI exam:

- Read in target language OUT LOUD
- Set your Desktop to a Target language newspaper and read the headings and a few lines every day OUT LOUD
- Find a play and read it out loud with expression and speed
- Listen to Target language movies and put the Target language subtitles on and read along
- Practice writing about yourself, your family, your life in a diary format – you will need to be able to talk about yourself and family easily and quickly without groping for words. If you don't know how to say what your parents do for a living, look it up now.
- Practice thinking in Target language when you are relaxing. Change your mental thoughts into Target language and figure out what words you do not know.
- Practice talking about episodes in your life in the PAST tense in paragraph form – not just a list of disconnected sentences.
- Review the forms for preterit and imperfect. If you make repeated mistakes with the forms, you are not at the Intermediate high or advanced level.
- Choose a few connectors and learn to use them. Just using “and” and “but” is not a high enough level. You need to know how to use: “however,” “nevertheless,” “in spite of,” etc.
- Practice chatting with a friend in the target language – but this is not enough, as they may not correct you.
- Get a tutor and have them write down every mistake you make in pronunciation, grammar, vocab, etc., but tell them not to interrupt you while holding on a conversation. You should review your errors and correct them for the next tutoring session. I suggest you write down sentences and paragraphs using the problem areas.
- Make up difficult situations and with a partner (or your alter ego) see if you can find a way to get out of them. Examples
 - You locked your self out of the office late at night, try to convince the custodian to let you back in.
 - You bought a pair of shoes and want to return them, but there is a no return policy. Negotiate something with the clerk.
 - You received a bad grade and need the better grade to pass the class. Try to convince the professor to give you another change.
 - You got in a car accident and have to call your insurance agency and explain that it was not your fault and that they need to help you.
 - Etc.

There are many other things you can do outside of the classroom to help, but these are some suggestions.

Let Dr. Betsy Partyka know if you have any further questions (partyka@ohio.edu).