Sample questions to assess English proficiency and determine if a court interpreter is needed

(Avoid questions easily answered with yes or no replies)

If an interpreter is not requested, but it appears a party/witness has limited English proficiency, a judge should ask questions on the record to assess the need for an interpreter.

- What papers did you bring to Court today?
- How did you come to court today?
- Describe what you see in this courtroom.
- How did you learn English, and what is most difficult about communicating in English?
- Describe what happened to you on [specific date].