

## About the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is an international standard for describing language ability. It is used around the world to describe learners' language skills.

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) describes what a learner can do at six specific levels and it is now internationally recognized as a common basis for the development of language syllabus, curriculum guidelines, examinations, textbooks.

LEVEL			DESCRIPTION
A	Basic user	A1	<b>Breakthrough or beginner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type.</li> <li>Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has.</li> <li>Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.</li> </ul>
		A2	<b>Way stage or elementary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).</li> <li>Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.</li> <li>Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.</li> </ul>
B	Independent user	B1	<b>Threshold or intermediate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.</li> <li>Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken.</li> <li>Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest.</li> <li>Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes &amp; ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.</li> </ul>
		B2	<b>Vantage or upper intermediate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation.</li> <li>Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.</li> <li>Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.</li> </ul>
C	Proficient user	C1	<b>Effective operational proficiency or advanced</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning.</li> <li>Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions.</li> <li>Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes.</li> <li>Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on</li> </ul>

CEFR		Guide and self assessment		
				complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices
		<b>C2</b>	<b>Mastery or proficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read.</li> <li>• Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation.</li> <li>• Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations.</li> </ul>

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf)

## SELF ASSESSMENT

**Not sure which course is right for your language level? Unless you are an *absolute beginner* or you are enrolling in a *Travellers class*, please, take some time answering these questions before choosing your language class.**

- Can you understand familiar words and very basic phrases concerning yourself, your family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly?
- Can you understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues?
- Can you interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help you formulate what you are trying to say?
- Can you ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics?
- Can you use simple phrases and sentences to describe where you live and people you know?
- Can you write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings?
- Can you fill in forms with personal details, for example entering your name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form?

**Please choose an A1 course**

- Can you understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment)?
- Can you catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements?
- Can you read very short, simple texts?
- Can you find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables and can you understand short simple personal letters?
- Can you communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities?
- Can you handle very short social exchanges, even though you can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going yourself?
- Can you use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms your family and other people, living conditions, your educational background and your present or most recent job?
- Can you write short, simple notes and messages?
- Can you write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something?

**Please choose an A2 course**

- Can you understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. ?
- Can you understand the main point of many radio or TV programs on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear?
- Can you understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language?
- Can you understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters?
- Can you deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken?

- Can you enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events)?
- Can you connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, your dreams, hopes and ambitions?
- Can you briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans?
- Can you narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe your reactions?
- Can you write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest?
- Can you write personal letters describing experiences and impressions?

**Please choose a B1 course**

- Can you understand extended speech and lectures and follow more complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar?
- Can you understand most TV news and current affairs programs?
- Can you understand the majority of films in standard language?
- Can you read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints?
- Can you understand contemporary literary prose?
- Can you interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible?
- Can you take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining your views?
- Can you present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to your field of interest?
- Can you explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options?
- Can you write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to your interests?
- Can you write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences?

**Please choose a B1 course**

- Can you understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signaled explicitly?
- Can you understand television programs and films?
- Can you understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style?
- Can you understand specialized articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to your field?
- Can you express yourself spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions?
- Can you formulate ideas and opinions with precision and relate your contribution skillfully to those of other speakers.
- Can you present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion?
- Can you express yourself in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length?
- Can you write about complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining what you consider to be the salient issues?

**Please choose a C1 course**

- Do you have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided you have some time to get familiar with the accent?
- Can you read with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialized articles and literary works?
- Can you take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms?
- Can you express yourself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely?
- If you do have a problem can you backtrack and restructure around the difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it?
- Can you present a clear, smoothly-flowing description or argument in a style appropriate to the context and with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points?
- Can you write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style?
- Can you write complex letters, reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points?
- Can you write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works?

**Please choose a C2 course**