

Common European Framework of Reference

All our open language courses are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. This enables our students to know exactly which level they have reached at the end of the course. This level is stated on the certificate you receive at the end of the course.

Common European Framework of Reference The European Language Portfolio was developed by the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe, from 1998 until 2000. It was launched on a pan-European level during the European Year of Languages (2001). The main goal of the Portfolio is the development of plurilingualism and pluriculturalism. One element of the Language Portfolio is a uniform system of language level classification: the Common European Framework of Reference (CEF).

Advantages of the CEF An advantage of the CEF is that it can be used for all European languages. In addition, the framework links up to the internationally recognised classification systems, language tests and language exams. It is therefore quite easy to compare the different tests and classification systems.

Descriptions of the levels Below you will find an overview of the skills corresponding to each level.

Final level A – Basic user	
A1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. 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. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
A2	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). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

Final level B – Independent user	
B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. 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.

Final level C – Proficient user	
C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.