

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR)

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR) is a framework of reference, designed to provide a transparent, coherent and comprehensive basis for the assessment of foreign language proficiency. It is used in Europe but also in other continents.

The summary table below describes the various levels of language proficiency as per CEFR, and states how many hours, approximately, it might take an average student to reach each of these levels.

MODULE	European council level	NOVO-SCHOOL LEVELS	USER / LEARNER'S COMPETENCES	No of classroom hours (x45 min)	Cumulative classroom hours	Time to completion
What is this level called?	CEFR level	Modules in this level	What can students at this level do?	How many classroom hours does it take to complete each level?	How many hours does it take to get to this level for an absolute beginner student?	How long would I need to reach this level with 4x45 minute lessons per week + doing all my homework?
ELEMENTARY	A1	A1/1	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.	120	120	7-8 months
		A1/2				
		A1/3				
PRE-INTERMEDIATE	A2	A2/1	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.	120	240	7-8 months (14-16 months from scratch)
		A2/2				
		A2/3				
INTERMEDIATE	B1	B1/1	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.	160	400	10 months (about two years from scratch)
		B1/2				
		B1/3				
		B1/4				
UPPER-INTERMEDIATE	B2	B2/1	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.	240	640	14-16 months (about 3- 3.5 years from scratch)
		B2/2				
		B2/3				
		B2/4				
		B2/5				
		B2/6				
ADVANCED	C1	C1/1	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.	240	880	14-16 months (about 4.5- 5 years from scratch)
		C1/2				
		C1/3				
		C1/4				
		C1/5				
		C1/6				
PROFICIENCY MASTERCLASS	C2	C2/1	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.	240	1120	14-16 months (about 6.5- 8 years from scratch)
		C2/2				
		C2/3				
		C2/4				
		C2/5				
		C2/6				

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