

## Common reference levels<sup>[edit]</sup>

The Common European Framework divides learners into three broad divisions that can be divided into six levels; for each level, it describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing. These levels are:

Level group	Level group name	Level	Level name	Description
A	Basic user	A1	Breakthrough or beginner	<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 themselves and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people they know and things they have.</li><li>• Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.</li></ul>
		A2	Way stage or elementary	<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 their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.</li></ul>
B	Independent user	B1	Threshold or intermediate	<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 while travelling in an area where the language is spoken.</li><li>• Can produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest.</li><li>• Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.</li></ul>

		<b>B2</b>	<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 their field of specialization.</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>
<b>C</b>	<b>Proficient user</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>Effective operational proficiency or advanced</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer clauses, and recognize implicit meaning.</li> <li>• Can express ideas 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 complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.</li> </ul>
		<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 summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation.</li> <li>• Can express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations.</li> </ul>

These descriptors can apply to any of the languages spoken in Europe, and there are translations in many languages.

## Relationship with duration of learning process<sup>[edit]</sup>

[Deutsche Welle](#) suggests A1 is reached with about 75 hours of German studies, A2.1 with about 150 hours, A2.2 with about 225 hours, B1.1 with about 300 hours, and B1.2 with about 400 hours.<sup>[6]</sup>

[Cambridge English Language Assessment](#) said that each level is reached with the following guided learning hours: A2, 180–200; B1, 350–400; B2, 500–600; C1, 700–800, and C2, 1,000–1,200.<sup>[7]</sup>

[Alliance Française](#) has stated students can expect to reach CEFR levels after the following cumulative hours of instruction: A1 60–100, A2 160–200, B1 360–400, B2 560–650, C1 810–950, C2 1060–1200.<sup>[8]</sup>

