

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – levels and skills: summary grid



	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Global	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.	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.	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.	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.	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.	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.
Listening	Can understand simple, standard speech which is very slow and carefully articulated. Can recognise familiar words and very basic phrases concerning him/herself, his/her family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.	Can understand clear, slow, standard speech related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.	Can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.	Can understand standard speech spoken at a normal rate and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. Can understand the essentials of lectures and most TV news and current affairs programmes. Can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.	Can understand lectures and discussions on complex topics beyond his/her field, though he/she may need to confirm occasional details, especially if the accent is unfamiliar. Can understand even when the talk is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly.	Can understand virtually any kind of spoken language, even when delivered at fast native speed and employing a high degree of colloquialism, regional usage or unfamiliar terminology.
Reading	Can understand very short, simple texts, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues, picking up familiar names and basic phrases one at a time and rereading as required.	Can understand short, simple texts containing high frequency vocabulary and shared international expressions. Can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses and timetables.	Can understand factual texts on subjects related to his/her interests that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language. Can recognise significant points in straightforward newspaper articles on familiar subjects. Can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes.	Can understand articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular stances or viewpoints. Can understand contemporary literary prose. Can adapt style and speed of reading to different texts and purposes, using appropriate reference sources selectively.	Can understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style. Can understand specialised articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to his/her field.	Can understand with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, complex texts such as specialised articles and literary works. Can appreciate subtle distinctions of style and implicit as well as explicit meaning.
Spoken Interaction	Can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help with formulation. Can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.	Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. Can handle very short social exchanges, even though he/she cannot usually keep the conversation going of his/her own accord.	Can exploit a wide range of simple language to deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling. Can 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 interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. Can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts. Can account for and sustain views clearly by providing relevant explanations and arguments.	Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes. Can formulate ideas and opinions appropriately and relate contributions skilfully to those of other speakers.	Can take part effortlessly in any discussion. Can express him/herself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. Can backtrack and restructure around any difficulty of formulation so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.
Spoken Production	Can use simple phrases and sentences to describe what he/she does, where he/she lives and people he/she knows.	Can use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms family and other people, living conditions, educational background and present or most recent job.	Can keep going comprehensibly in order to describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions. Can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. Can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe reactions.	Can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to his field of interest, expanding and supporting ideas with subsidiary points and relevant examples. Can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.	Can present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.	Can 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 significant points.
Writing	Can write a short, simple message or postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. Can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.	Can write short, simple notes and messages relating to matters of immediate need, linking a series of simple phrases and sentences with simple connectors like "and" , "but" and "because". Can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something.	Can write simple texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest by linking a series of shorter discrete elements into a linear sequence. Can write personal letters describing events, experiences and impressions.	Can write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to his/her interests. Can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. Can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.	Can write clear, well-structured text and express points of view at some length. Can write detailed expositions of complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining the salient issues. Can write different kinds of texts in a style appropriate to the reader in mind.	Can write clear, smoothly-flowing, well-structured text in an appropriate style. Can write complex reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice significant points. Can write reviews of professional or literary works.