

What are the language levels?

The levels of the CEFR

CEFR means "Common European Framework of Reference". There are six levels of language ability: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. You start at level A1. You speak your mother tongue at level C2. The six steps in detail are:

A1: Beginner

You can understand and use simple words and sentences.

You can introduce yourself and others.

You can ask personal questions.

You can answer questions.

Someone is speaking slowly and clearly. You can have a conversation with them.

A2: Elementary

You can understand full sentences and frequently used words.

You can express yourself in simple, everyday situations. You can describe where you come from, what kind of education you have and your surroundings.

B1: Intermediate

You can understand a lot. You can speak about topics you are familiar with and your personal interests. You can talk about experiences and events, dreams, hopes and goals. You can provide brief reasons or explanations for your plans and opinions.

B2: Upper intermediate

You can understand the most important parts of complex texts on both specific and abstract topics. You can even understand expert discussions in topics you know well.

You can express yourself orally in a spontaneous and fluent manner. You can justify a position on a current issue by giving the pros and cons.

C1: Advanced

You can understand much of longer, complex texts. You can also grasp implicit meaning in the text.

You can articulate your opinion on complex topics clearly, extensively and in a well-structured way.

C2: Proficient

You can understand practically everything you read or hear without effort.

You can summarise information from a variety of written and oral sources. You can reproduce reasoning and explanations in a cohesive way. You can express yourself in a spontaneous, very fluid, precise and nuanced manner.

Further information at: europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de