

Language level stages: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 or C2?

Are you looking for a language course? And are you wondering what "A1", "A2", "B1", "B2", "C1" or "C2" means? Then this page will help you.

What does "A1", "A2", "B1", "B2", "C1" or "C2" mean?

The terms "A1", "A2", "B1", "B2", "C1" or "C2" are all levels of language proficiency. This means that each level says something about the level of your language skills. The levels therefore say something about your language skills. They show you how good your German is.

The language levels apply throughout Europe. They are defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). They form a common basis for language teaching in Europe.

💡 No matter what language level you have: It is important that you practise a lot! The more you practise, the faster your German skills will improve. Surround yourself with the German language as much as possible:

- Speak German with other people.
- Read texts in German.
- Watch television in German.
- Listen to the radio or podcasts in German.

Is it important to know your own language level?

Yes, definitely! It helps you to improve your German. The language level shows you: Where are your strengths in the German language. And where are your weaknesses in the German language. So you can adapt your learning processes. And improve your German faster.

In addition, a certain language level is often a prerequisite.

For example with:

- Public authorities
- work
- Training or studies

It is therefore important to know your own language level.

💡 Are you applying for a job, an apprenticeship or an internship? Then state your language level in your application. This is important for the company. It is even better if you can enclose a language certificate.

Proof of language level: language certificates

Proof of language level is often required (e.g. by authorities). This means that you have to show that you have a certain language level. For example, by having attended an appropriate course. Or by taking a **language certificate**.

For a language certificate, you have to take a test. You will be tested on how well you speak German. If you pass the test, you will receive the certificate.

There are various language certificates (e.g. German certificate from the Goethe Institute, the German language diploma or TELC). It is best to seek advice from the [advice centre for learning German](#).

By the way: There are also language certificates for other languages (e.g. English, French or Spanish).

How is the language level measured?

Language includes:

1. Speaking when taking part in a conversation
2. Speaking when speaking coherently on your own
3. Understanding when listening
4. Understanding when reading
5. Writing

Your language level is measured against these five skills.

Note: Not all five skills have to be at the same level. For example, writing can be at A2 and reading at B1. Are your skills at different levels? Then you can see exactly in which area you can improve.

Language levels A, B and C

The European Framework of Reference distinguishes between three levels. However, each level is divided into two further levels:

- Basic level (language level A): A1 and A2
- Intermediate level (language level B): B1 and B2
- Upper level (language level C): C1 and C2

When you start learning a new language, you are not automatically at level A1. You also need certain basic skills for A1.

Language level A: Elementary language use

Basic level A is about learning the basics of a language. As you progress, you will be able to communicate in everyday situations.

Language level A1

As a beginner, you are at level A1.

- You can express yourself in everyday situations using simple language.
- Simple language use and communication is possible.

Language level A2

At this level, you have learnt the most important basic skills.

- You can take part in conversations on familiar topics or in familiar situations (e.g. when shopping).
- Simple language use is routine.

Language level B: Independent language use

At this level, general language skills are already quite good. Conversational skills have been achieved. This means that you can take part in conversations independently and without major linguistic problems.

Language level B1

This level is considered advanced language use.

- You can communicate well on familiar topics and personal interests.
- Your language skills are primarily at a more individual level.

Language level B2

At this language level, you have reached the level of independent language use. This means:

- You have a large vocabulary. This enables you to understand more complex statements. And you can express them in your own words.
- You use the language on your own initiative.

Language level C

Level C is the upper level. This means: You have competent and confident language skills. Your vocabulary is very large. And you are linguistically proficient.

Language level C1

At level C1, you have competent language skills. This means that

- You also understand the implicit meanings of difficult texts and statements. "Implicit" means: sometimes people don't say things. There are subliminal, hidden messages. You can also understand these.
- You use the language spontaneously. So you don't have to pre-formulate in your head or search for words.

Language level C2

C2 is the highest level. Your language skills are almost native-like.

- You understand everything effortlessly.
- You speak spontaneously, accurately, fluently and competently.

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