

European language levels

A1

Listening

I can understand familiar words and very basic phrases concerning myself, my family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.

Reading

I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues.

Spoken Interaction

I 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 me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.

Writing

I can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.

A2

Listening

I can understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment). I can catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.

Reading

I can read very short, simple texts. I can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables and I can understand short simple personal letters.

Spoken Interaction

I can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. I can handle very short social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself.

Writing

I can write short, simple notes and messages. I can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something.

B1

Listening

I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I 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.

Reading

I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.

Spoken Interaction

I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I 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).

Writing

I can write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

B2

Listening

I can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes. I can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.

Reading

I can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints. I can understand contemporary literary prose.

Spoken Interaction

I can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. I can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views.

Writing

I can write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to my interests. I can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. I can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.

C1

Listening

I can understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly. I can understand television programmes and films without too much effort.

Reading

I can read long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style. I can understand specialised articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to my field.

Spoken Interaction

I can express myself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes. I can formulate ideas and opinions with precision and relate my contribution skilfully to those of other speakers.

Writing

I can express myself in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length. I can write about complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining what I consider to be the salient issues. I can select a style appropriate to the reader in mind.

C2

Listening

I have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided I have some time to get familiar with the accent.

Reading

I can read with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialised articles and literary works.

Spoken Interaction

I can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms. I can express myself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. If I do have a problem I can backtrack and restructure around the difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.

Writing

I can write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style. I can write complex letters, reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points. I can write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.

Exams

A1

English
TELC Stage 1 BULATS, IELTS

French
DELF A1

German
TELC Start Deutsch A1
Goethe-Zertifikat A1

Italian
PLIDA A1

A2

English
Key English Test (KET)
BULATS, IELTS

French
DELF A2
Diplôme de Français Professionel (DFP) A2

German
TELC Start Deutsch A2
Goethe-Zertifikat A2

Italian
CELI 1 PLIDA A2

B1

English
Preliminary English Test (PET)
BEC Preliminary
BULATS, IELTS

French
DELF B1
Diplôme de Français
Professionel (DFP) B1

German
TELC Deutsch B1
Goethe-Zertifikat B1

Italian
CELI 2 PLIDA B1

Spanish
DELE B1

B2

English
First Certificate in English
BEC Vantage
BULATS, IELTS, TOEFL

French
DELF B2
Diplôme de Français
Professionel (DFP) B2

German
TELC Deutsch B2
Goethe-Zertifikat B2

Italian
CELI 3 PLIDA B2

Spanish
DELE B2

C1

English
Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)
BEC Higher
BULATS, IELTS, TOEFL

French
DALF C1
Diplôme de Français
Professionel (DFP) C1

German
TELC Deutsch C1
Goethe-Zertifikat C1

Italian
CELI 4 PLIDA C1

Spanish
DELE C1

C2

English
Proficiency in English
BULATS, IELTS, TOEFL

French
DALF C2
Diplôme de Français
Professionel (DFP) C2

German
Goethe-Zertifikat C2

Italian
CELI 5 PLIDA C2