

THE COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE FOR LANGUAGES



The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages has been introduced to standardise the teaching and testing of language proficiency across Europe, be it English, Portuguese or Finnish. There are six levels. Below is a summary of what is expected at each level.

C2

Should be able to speak the language almost as well as a native speaker. Able to summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments accurately. Able to express him/herself spontaneously, fluently and precisely, and able to differentiate different shades of meaning.

C1

Able to understand a wide range of demanding longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Able to express him/herself fluently with little hesitation. Able to use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Able to produce clear, well-constructed, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

B2

Able to understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Able to talk with enough fluency to native speakers without strain to either party. Able to 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.

B1

Able to understand the main points when talking about familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Able to deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where language is spoken. Able to produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Able to describe experiences and events, hopes and ambitions.

A2

Able to understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (family, work, local geography). Able to communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Able to describe in simple terms aspects of background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

A1

Able to understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases. Able to answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Able to communicate in a simple way provided the other person speaks slowly and clearly.