

# What is CEFR, exactly?

The **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)** is arguably the most widely used standard for understanding a learner's language proficiency.

Generally speaking, the CEFR scale operates on a 6-point grading system—ranging from A1 for beginners to C2 for learners who have achieved a level of language mastery.




## CEFR: A brief history

The CEFR scale was developed by the Council of Europe in 1989 to provide a clear method for learning, teaching, and assessing language speaking proficiency in Europe. By 2001, the European Union recommended using the CEFR scale to measure individual speaking ability for all languages. It has since been updated to include Pre-A1 proficiency levels, and language skills related to modern technologies, like using telecommunications and interacting online. Generally speaking, the CEFR proficiency standards provide a fairly universal framework for measuring speaking proficiency across the globe.



## The CEFR scale at a glance



A1-A2

### BEGINNER LEARNERS

**PRE-A1 Beginner** Pre-A1 speakers can manage to speak very short, isolated, rehearsed utterances using gestures and signaled requests for help when necessary.

**A1 Beginner** A1-level speakers can use very basic expressions to satisfy basic needs.

**A2 Beginner** A2 learners can understand frequently used expressions and colloquialisms (i.e. shopping, family, employment, etc), and complete daily tasks, and describe daily matters that are a little more urgent.


### INDEPENDENT LEARNERS

Independent-level speakers are generally better equipped for handling more complex travel conversations. For instance, speakers at the B1 level can understand specific points related to someone's family, career, or education. This means they can also be a little more conversational by speaking to personal experiences, life events, ambitions, or even opinions.


B2 learners can truly start to engage in business conversations in a new language. Upper-intermediate speakers can talk freely about complex topics in their field of expertise and spontaneously interact with a stranger without much anxiety.

**B1 Independent**

**B2 Independent**



B1-B2



C1-C2

### PROFICIENT LEARNERS

**C1 Advanced** C1 speakers can clearly communicate in social, academic, and/or professional encounters, which can prove helpful when presenting complex business topics in a new language.

**C2 Proficient** Proficient speakers can hold conversations and share a wide range of ideas in both casual and formal situations with ease. They are confident in conversations both within and outside the workplace.

## Why language proficiency standardization matters?

If you can't measure it, you can't improve it. Without a benchmark for your workforce's language speaking ability, you cannot meaningfully measure success and achieve the goals for your organization.

With Rosetta Stone® Enterprise, you can focus on language proficiency from the moment your employees start learning a new language. Through standardization powered by Rosetta Stone's award-winning, immersive language tools you can rally your entire organization, specific learner groups, or individuals around a clear, measurable proficiency goal.

