The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR): The ABCs of Language Competence

**SPEAKING:**

**Conversations, Phone Calls, Presentations, Meetings**

**C2**

- Can produce clear, smoothly flowing, well-structured speech with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.
- Has a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.
- Can take an active or leading part in negotiations and meetings with both native and non-native speakers.
- Can react appropriately in unexpected situations which may be influenced by cultural differences.

**C1**

- Can express his/her thoughts fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly.
- Can give clear, detailed descriptions and presentations as complex subjects, integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and ending off with an appropriate conclusion.
- Can draw well-structured presentations on topics belonging to his/her own field with the help of tables and figures and aimed at the target group, responding spontaneously to questions from members of the audience.

**B2**

- Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction and sustained relationships with native speakers quite possible without imposing strain on either party.
- Can give clear, detailed descriptions and can clearly put a forward a point of view as an issue.
- Can express his/her ideas and opinions in meetings with precision, can present and respond to complex lines of argument and solve difficulties of opinion surprisingly.

**B1**

- Can enter into an unprompted conversation on familiar topics, express personal opinions and exchange information on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life.
- Can express thoughtfully well enough to be understood without difficulty most of the time.
- Can pass on short passages from texts and presentations relevant to his/her professional field, in an informal exchange of information.

**A2**

- Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information.
- Can give a simple description or presentation of people, living or working conditions, daily routines, ideas, feelings etc.
- Can ask for and resist information on matters to do with work, if familiar language patterns are used.

**A1**

- Can interact in a simple way in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics, but communication is totally dependent on replying, repairing and an expectation of a slower rate of speech.
- Can express thoughts and ideas and use simple greeting and leave-taking expressions.
- Can ask and answer simple questions about personal details and the workplace, including name, house, location, products.

**LISTENING:**

**Receiving and Processing Information**

**C2**

- Can understand how difficult it is to understand any kind of spoken language.
- Can understand all voices speakers even if they are speaking an abstract or complex speciality topics that are not within the listener’s own field.
- Needs a moment to become accustomed to a new accent.

**C1**

- Can understand enough to follow extended speech on abstract and complex topics, though may need to confirm occasional details.
- Can recognise a wide range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.
- Can understand presentations, reports and operating instructions connected with his/her profession, even when these are complex and expressed in complicated language.

**B2**

- Can understand the main idea on both concrete and abstract topics which may be highly complex with respect to structure and content, if delivered at a standard rate.
- Can understand the gist of longer conversations and meetings on straightforward matter related to his/her or her own field, provided speech is clearly articulated and at a standard rate.

**B1**

- Can understand the main ideas on both concrete and abstract topics which may be highly complex with respect to structure and content, if delivered at a standard rate.
- Can understand the gist of longer conversations and meetings on straightforward matter related to his/her or her own field, provided speech is clearly articulated and at a standard rate.

**A2**

- Can understand enough to be able to meet needs of a concrete type, provided speech is clearly and slowly articulated and is related to very basic personal and family-related information or venues such as shopping, local geography and work.
- Can understand the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.

**A1**

- Can understand everyday expressions related to immediate needs, so long as speaking partners are willing to talk slowly and clearly, using repetitions.
- Can understand numbers, quantities, cost and time.

**WRITING:**

**Letters, Faxes, Emails, Minutes, Reports**

**C2**

- Can write clear, well-structured texts on complex subjects.
- Can express himself/herself in a clear and precise manner, and can make effective, flexible use of a style appropriate to the reader in mind.
- Can write a formally correct letter of complaint and request that problems be addressed.
- Can express and support points of view at some length with subsidiary points, reasons and relevant examples.

**C1**

- Can write straightforward factual text on a range of familiar subjects within his/her field of interest.
- Can express his/her ideas and opinions in meetings with precision, can present and respond to complex lines of argument and solve difficulties of opinion surprisingly.

**B2**

- Can write clear, well-structured texts on abstract and complex topics, though may need to confirm occasional details.
- Can understand enough to follow extended speech on abstract and complex topics, though may need to confirm occasional details.
- Can react appropriately to unexpected situations which may be influenced by cultural differences.

**B1**

- Can write straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her or her own field, using simple sentences and simple constructions.
- Can understand the main ideas on both concrete and abstract topics which may be highly complex with respect to structure and content, if delivered at a standard rate.

**A2**

- Can write short, simple texts on familiar matters of a concrete type which consist of high-frequency everyday or job-related language.
- Can understand short, simple texts on familiar matters of a concrete type which consist of high-frequency everyday or job-related language.

**A1**

- Can write straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her or her own field, using simple sentences and simple constructions.
- Can understand short, simple texts on familiar matters of a concrete type which consist of high-frequency everyday or job-related language.

**READING:**

**Receiving and Processing Information**

**C2**

- Can understand all native speakers even if they are speaking an abstract or complex speciality topics that are not within the listener’s own field.
- Needs a moment to become accustomed to a new accent.

**C1**

- Can understand comprehensive reports and analyses.
- Can understand all types of correspondence.
- Can read and understand contracts, regulations and instruction manuals.

**B2**

- Can understand a wide range of lengthy, complex texts which occur in a specialist, professional or educational context, provided he/she can convey difficult situations.
- Can extract the required information from complex texts relating to his/her own area of specialty.

**B1**

- Can understand a wide range of lengthy, complex texts which occur in a specialist, professional or educational context, provided he/she can convey difficult situations.
- Can extract the required information from complex texts relating to his/her own area of specialty.

**A2**

- Can read straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her or her own field, using simple sentences and simple constructions.
- Can understand short, simple texts on familiar matters of a concrete type which consist of high-frequency everyday or job-related language.

**A1**

- Can read straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her or her own field, using simple sentences and simple constructions.
- Can understand short, simple texts on familiar matters of a concrete type which consist of high-frequency everyday or job-related language.