

COURSE	CODE	DATE(S)	DAY(S)	TIME	WEEK(S)	SITE	FEE	SNR.	CONC.
--------	------	---------	--------	------	---------	------	-----	------	-------

Finding the right level language course for you

Levels are based on the common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

Stage 1 (CEFR A1) – suitable if you have no knowledge of the language

You can join at module 2 if you have studied for about 20 hours or if you can:

- understand by listening or reading a few familiar words and phrases (e.g. 'hello', 'good morning', 'sorry', 'thank you')
- say and write short simple phrases (e.g. stating your name, nationality)
- understand letters/basic symbols of the alphabet/sound system

You can join at module 3 if you have studied for about 40 hours or if you can:

- understand by listening or reading a range of familiar spoken phrases (e.g. days of the week, months of the year, numbers, prices and times)
- answer simple questions and give basic information orally and in writing (e.g. place of work/study, job, family, interests)

Stage 2 lower (CEFR A2) – suitable if you have studied for about 1 year or if you can:

- hold a simple conversation and ask and answer simple questions on a variety of everyday topics (e.g. personal details, shopping, directions, time and numbers)
- follow short simple written directions (e.g. to go from X to Y) and instructions and read or write short sentences on a variety of everyday topics (e.g. personal introduction, shopping lists, directions, timetables and numbers etc)
- use basic verbal forms to talk about the present, past and future

Stage 2 upper (working towards CEFR B1) – suitable if you have studied for about 2 years or if you can:

- carry out simple transactions (e.g. in shops, bars, post offices, railway stations) and make simple plans with people (e.g. what to do, where to go and when to meet), expressing your likes, dislikes and simple opinions
- handle simple phone calls (e.g. ask to speak to someone, give number, answer a call, take a simple message)
- understand a piece of formal or informal writing (e.g. a short letter, note or summary), use a directory to find a service, find the prices of items in classified newspaper adverts, use a menu
- write short basic descriptions of events and activities, and basic letters requesting information (e.g. about hotels)
- use a range of verbal forms to talk about the present, past and future

Stage 3 lower (CEFR B1) – suitable if you have studied for about 3 years or if you can:

- take part in a simple conversation on a variety of everyday topics (e.g. weather, family, interests, times of working day, location of company departments), giving and justifying opinions and ideas
- understand the gist of authentic conversations (e.g. interviews, adverts, news broadcast) and authentic texts (e.g. articles from the press) and produce a summary or translation of a given text
- write a letter with a good degree of accuracy (e.g. giving an account of educational background, job, interests)
- use a wide range of grammar structures including basic conditional and subjunctive tenses, pronouns etc.

Stage 3 upper (working towards CEFR B2) – suitable if you have studied for about 4 years or if you can:

- understand details of authentic conversations of moderate length and complexity (e.g. interviews, adverts, news)
- understand specific details and general information from routine telephone calls
- handle most practical tasks in everyday situations (e.g. telephone enquiries, asking for a refund, negotiating a purchase)
- give a short and straightforward presentation on a chosen topic in your academic or professional field
- follow routine instructions (e.g. for a game, recipe, using equipment, or installing computer software)
- understand articles from the press or other authentic sources and produce a written summary covering the main points
- write letters giving news, describing experiences and impressions, expressing feelings or giving or requesting detailed information (e.g. replying to an advertisement, applying for a job)
- confidently use a wide range of grammar structures including conditional and subjunctive tenses, pronouns etc.

Stage 4 (CEFR B2) – suitable if you have studied for about 5 years or if you can:

- understand authentic, long passages of some complexity (e.g. interviews, adverts, news broadcast etc.)
- participate in authentic conversation with native speakers deploying a good and appropriate range of generally accurate language and argue a viewpoint convincingly
- understand authentic texts (e.g. articles from the press, literary extracts etc.) with ease
- write extended texts using a wide range of language and vocabulary accurately (e.g. reports, essays, letters and emails)
- confidently use a wide range of grammar structures including conditional and subjunctive tenses, pronouns etc.

Stage 5 (CEFR C1-C2) – suitable for confident speakers or those who spent time in the foreign country who can:

- easily follow and take part in complex conversations between native speakers in group discussion and debate, including those on abstract and unfamiliar topics
- understand a wide range of recorded and broadcast audio material, including some non-standard usage and identify finer points of detail including implicit attitudes and relationships between speakers
- give a clear, well-structured presentation on a complex subject in your area of work, study or special interest
- understand complex technical information, operating instructions and specifications for familiar products and services
- read contemporary literary texts with ease
- write a wide range of formal and informal texts including reports, essays, letters and emails varying vocabulary and style according to the context
- recognise common idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms and appreciate different styles and degrees of formality.