

CEFR 2020 Companion Volume — Descriptor Summary Grid

A quick-reference grid of the CEFR levels and the key 2020 additions. Use it when planning, assessing or reporting learner level.

The six reference levels

Level	Band	Global descriptor (summary)
A1	Basic user	Understands and uses familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases.
A2	Basic user	Communicates in simple, routine tasks on familiar matters.
B1	Independent	Deals with most situations while travelling; produces connected text on familiar topics.
B2	Independent	Interacts with fluency and spontaneity; clear, detailed text on a range of subjects.
C1	Proficient	Expresses ideas fluently and spontaneously; flexible, effective language use.
C2	Proficient	Understands with ease virtually everything; very precise, nuanced expression.

What the 2020 Companion Volume added

- **Mediation** scales — conveying meaning between people, texts and languages.
- **Plurilingual / pluricultural** competence descriptors.
- **Online interaction** descriptors (real-time collaboration, discussion).
- A **Pre-A1** level for the earliest steps of learning.
- Reworked and expanded **spoken/written production** descriptors.
- Removal of the native-speaker as the ultimate benchmark.

Planning check: for each lesson, which can-do descriptor is the target, and how will learners show they have met it?

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