

Council of Europe (ALTE) standards: what your language level means

Council of Europe level	Listening skills	Reading skills	Speaking skills	Writing skills
A1 Break-Through	You can understand familiar words and phrases about yourself, your family, and concrete situations you know well.	You can understand familiar words and sentences, for example on notices and posters.	You can interact in a simple way if the other person speaks slowly and repeats themselves. You can ask and answer simple questions and can use simple sentences to describe people you know, etc.	You can write a short postcard. You can fill in a form with personal details.
A2 Waystage	You can understand sentences about familiar topics if they contain high frequency vocabulary. You can catch the main point in simple announcements.	You can read short, simple texts. You can find specific information you need in everyday materials such as advertisements, menus, etc.	You can communicate in simple and routine tasks. You can manage simple social exchanges. You can describe your educational background and your present or most recent job.	You can write simple notes and messages. You can write a simple personal letter.
B1 Threshold	You can understand the main points when listening to a native speaker if the topic is familiar. This includes listening to radio or television.	You can understand texts which contain high frequency or job-related vocabulary. You can understand descriptions of feelings or wishes.	You can manage in most travel situations. You can join in discussions without preparation if the topic is familiar. You can give reasons and explanations, and can narrate an event.	You can write a short connected text on a familiar topic. You can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.
B2 Vantage	You can understand lectures if the topic is familiar. You can understand the news on television reasonably well.	You can read reports or articles which express opinions or attitudes.	You can interact quite fluently and spontaneously, and take an active part in discussions on familiar topics. You can give detailed descriptions, and explain opinions quite precisely.	You can write clear, detailed texts on familiar topics. You can write an essay or a report, and give reasons in support of an argument.
C1 Effective Proficiency	You can understand extended speech, even when it is not clearly structured. You can understand most television programmes.	You can understand complex factual and literary texts. You can understand specialised articles on unfamiliar topics.	You can express yourself fluently and spontaneously. You can explain and justify opinions precisely and relate them to the contributions of others.	You can express yourself in clear, well-structured text. You can write about complex subjects in different styles.
C2 Mastery	You have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language.	You can read any form of written language with ease, including technical or literary matter.	You can take part effortlessly in any conversation. You can present clear, smooth-flowing descriptions.	You can present a case, whether general or specialised, which helps the reader notice and remember significant points.