

## 'Can do' statements

The CEFR describes specific performance abilities at each level using what are called 'can do' statements. The 'can do' statements describe what learners at each level can do, by broad skill area.

There is, of course, a good degree of overlap between what learners can do in each skill at the different levels. As they go up through the levels, learners are assumed to be able to do everything mentioned at all previous levels, and add new skills.

The following pages summarise the CEFR 'can do' statements for each level by skill.

Table 5: CEFR 'can do' statements by level and skill

CEFR	When ...			
	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
	... learners can			
Pre-A1	<p>recognise and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>everyday, familiar words in simple questions and answers when they are spoken slowly and clearly.</li> <li>numbers, prices, dates and days of the week when spoken slowly and clearly in simple questions and answers.</li> <li>simple descriptions of rooms and familiar places with the help of pictures.</li> <li>simple factual information in short conversations.</li> </ul>	<p>read and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognise familiar everyday words with the help of pictures.</li> <li>understand information about the days, times and locations of events they are being invited to in short letters, cards and emails.</li> <li>understand basic information such as menus with the help of pictures.</li> <li>understand simple personal letters, emails and other short messages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read aloud a text about an everyday situation so people can understand most of what they are saying.</li> <li>understand and reply to simple questions such as 'What is this?' and name some familiar people, objects, animals and actions.</li> <li>give a basic description of a situation at home, at school or in their free-time.</li> <li>talk about a picture story in simple words and phrases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell a number of familiar words with the help of pictures.</li> <li>write some simple phrases and short sentences using the right word order.</li> <li>answer simple questions and give basic personal information about themselves and other people in writing.</li> </ul>
A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify when people give important and specific information, for example, about places, dates and times.</li> <li>understand simple descriptions of rooms, familiar places and objects with the help of pictures.</li> <li>understand important information about people, their likes and dislikes and everyday activities in short conversations when speakers speak slowly and clearly.</li> </ul>	<p>read and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the main points of a short simple text given the help of pictures.</li> <li>short texts on a number of subjects of personal interest such as news, travel and music, when they are written with simple words and supported by illustrations and pictures.</li> <li>simple messages sent via social media or email with details about what to do, and when and where to meet, for example.</li> <li>short, illustrated stories about everyday activities described in simple words.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read aloud a short text based on a common situation using some English sounds and stress patterns clearly.</li> <li>answer questions on everyday topics with simple phrases and sentences.</li> <li>describe pictures of familiar scenes with simple phrases and sentences.</li> <li>tell simple stories using basic words and expressions to give information about the people and what they are doing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell a number of familiar words with the help of pictures.</li> <li>recognise and use the correct word order in some simple phrases.</li> <li>give information using simple phrases and sentences about themselves and other people in writing.</li> <li>write simple messages, cards or emails.</li> </ul>

CEFR	When ...			
	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
	... learners can			
A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand the most important information from short recordings when people are talking about familiar everyday situations.</li> <li>follow short conversations about people, their lives and daily routines, and what they do and don't like.</li> <li>understand basic details in descriptions of people, places, objects and activities.</li> </ul>	<p>read and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand short simple personal letters.</li> <li>understand short narratives and descriptions of people's lives and everyday situations.</li> <li>find factual information in short texts about familiar topics and situations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read aloud a short text based on a common situation and pronounce familiar words and phrases quite clearly, and generally use the correct stress, rhythm and intonation.</li> <li>answer a range of questions about everyday objects, places and activities that people do.</li> <li>describe people, places, possessions, daily routines and everyday activities that they can see in pictures and give their opinion about what they can see in simple terms.</li> <li>tell a very short story using a range of words and phrases in simple grammatical structures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell a range of words and phrases about basic and familiar situations correctly.</li> <li>use simple grammatical structures with some control.</li> <li>write short, simple stories based on pictures and using their own ideas.</li> <li>write notes, emails and text messages to friends, family and other people, for example, replying to questions, making or accepting invitations, and so on.</li> </ul>
B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follow the main points of extended discussions on everyday familiar topics.</li> <li>identify the most important information about people, places, objects and activities when people are having everyday conversations on familiar topics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand descriptions of places, events, feelings and people's opinions in a range of different types of texts, including short stories.</li> <li>find the key factual information in different sorts of short texts.</li> <li>understand letters, notes, messages and emails sent by friends, family and other people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>follow the main points of extended discussions on everyday familiar topics.</li> <li>identify the most important information about people, places, objects and activities when people are having everyday conversations on familiar topics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use in writing a range of vocabulary related to familiar topics and everyday situations.</li> <li>write sentences about familiar situations using the correct grammar.</li> <li>write detailed descriptions of people, places, objects and activities in predictable situations.</li> <li>write and reply to personal letters and messages in good detail in an appropriate style.</li> </ul>