



## **Guide to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)**

**Rigtalk – and all our testing systems - are benchmarked to the levels described by the globally recognised *Common European Framework of Reference*.**

The *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)* is a series of descriptions of abilities which can be used to set clear targets for achievements within language learning, teaching and assessing. It is accepted worldwide in both commerce and education as a way of benchmarking language ability.

There are six CEFR language levels - two for basic, two for intermediate and two for advanced to allow for lower and higher abilities within each range. The highest level (Mastery) is C2 and the lowest level (Breakthrough) is A1.

An easy to follow table showing “the overall ability” at each level is shown on the following page with an overview table shown below:

<b>CEFR level</b>	<b>General level overview</b>
C2	Mastery
C1	Proficiency
B2	Advanced
B1	Intermediate
A2	Pre-intermediate
A1	Elementary

## Common European Framework of Reference levels: global scale

<b>Proficient User</b> (Mastery)	<b>C2</b>	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
<b>Proficient User</b> (Effective Operational Efficiency)	<b>C1</b>	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for professional, social purposes. Can produce clear, well structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
<b>Independent User</b> (Vantage)	<b>B2</b>	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
<b>Independent User</b> (Threshold)	<b>B1</b>	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, leisure etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
<b>Basic User</b> (Waystage)	<b>A2</b>	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
<b>Basic User</b> (Breakthrough)	<b>A1</b>	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/.she knows, things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.