

Guidance on Language Levels

Collyer's Adult Education 2026



Collyer's Adult Education language courses broadly follow the guidelines set by Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This is a six-level international standard used to measure language ability, split into **A1 and A2** for basic users, **B1 and B2** for independent users, and **C1 and C2** for proficient. The table below explains each level and shows which levels are currently offered as part of our Adult Education programme. In addition to these, we do offer some termly conversation courses in Italian and Spanish which are for those at an Intermediate level. We do not offer any courses at C1/C2 at this time.

CEFR level		Language	Description
A1	Beginners	French Spanish Italian German	- Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. - Can introduce themselves to others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where they live, people they know and things they have. - Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
A2	Improvers	French Spanish Italian	- Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, 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 their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
B1	Intermediate (Formerly 'Advanced')	French Spanish	- Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. - Can deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in an area where the language is spoken. - Can produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. - Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

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B2	Upper Intermediate	Spanish	• Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in their 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.
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