

# Global and the Common European Framework

## An Introduction What is the Common European Framework?

The Common European Framework (CEF) is a widely used standard created by the Council of Europe to describe language competence.

## Common European Framework levels

The Common European Framework divides learners into six levels:

- A Basic Speaker:
  - A1 Breakthrough
  - A2 Waystage
- B Independent Speaker:
  - B1 Threshold
  - B2 Vantage
- c Proficient Speaker:
  - C1 Effective Operational Proficiency
  - C2 Mastery

This is how the CEF levels correlate with some common exams:

CEF level	ALTE level	Cambridge exam	IELTS	TOEFL
A1	Breakthrough level		IELTS 1.0-2.5	
A2	Level 1	KET	IELTS 3.0	
B1	Level 2	PET	IELTS 3.5-4.5	
B2	Level 3	FCE	IELTS 5.0-6.0	650-800 points
C1	Level 4	CAE	IELTS 6.5-7.0	800-900 points
C2	Level 5	CPE	IELTS 7.5-9.0	900 + points

By the end of *Global Beginner*, you should be able to do most of the things described at the A1 level.

By the end of *Global Elementary*, you should be able to do most of the things described at the A2 level.

By the end of *Global Pre-intermediate*, you should be able to do many of the things described at the B1 level.

By the end of *Global Intermediate*, you should be able to do most of the things described at the B1 level.

By the end of *Global Upper intermediate*, you should be able to do most of the things described at the B2 level.

By the end of *Global Advanced*, you should be able to do most of the things described at the C1 level.

## Descriptors and checklists

The way to judge a CEF level is by describing what a learner can do in the different skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking).

In order to help the learner and the teacher assess the students' progress, we have provided a list of the relevant 'descriptors' for each unit of the coursebook. By the end of the unit many of the learners should be feeling that they can try to do a range of things in English. Learners can use these checklists to get a detailed, articulated, and personal picture of their own individual progress. This information can be of great help to teachers in identifying students' actual progress and helping them to set their learning priorities.

This is not a way of formally assessing the students, but a way of checking their progress through the course across the whole range of language abilities and assist them in planning the focus of future lessons.

Suggested targets for the checklists are also provided.

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## What is the European Language Portfolio?

The European Language Portfolio is another Council of Europe project, designed to give every learner a structure for keeping a record of their language learning experiences and their progress as described in the CEF. Up-to-date information about developments with the CEF and Portfolio can be found on [www.coe.int/portfolio](http://www.coe.int/portfolio).

The Swiss-based Eurocentres Foundation played a major role in the development of the levels and the descriptors for the CEF and the prototype Portfolio. The CEF descriptors, developed in a Swiss National Research Foundation project, were presented in clearer, simpler, self-assessment form in the prototype (Swiss) Portfolio. For adult learners the most useful set of descriptors is that developed from the Swiss version by EAQUALS (European Association for Quality Language Services) in collaboration with ALTE. The descriptors used to map the content of *Global* and in the *Global* checklists are taken from the EAQUALS/ALTE Portfolio. An electronic version that can be completed on-line can be downloaded in English or French from [www.eelp.org](http://www.eelp.org).

## Other documents

In addition to the mapping of the course against the relevant level of the Common European Framework, we are also providing copies of the following documents for your students:

Self assessment checklists and suggested targets

- Needs analysis
- Language passport
- Suggestions for learners to create a Personal Dossier

EAQUALS is a pan-European language school accreditation body with over 100 full members. ALTE is an association dedicated to raising standards in language testing and encompasses the major European examination providers. Eurocentres provides high quality language teaching in countries where the language concerned is spoken. EAQUALS, ALTE and Eurocentres are the three NGOs advisers for language learning to the Council of Europe and all three implement the CEFR.