

# **Content coherence in Common Reference Levels**

**CEFR (2001) Chapter 3.6**

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# A1: Breakthrough

- the lowest level of **generative language use**
  - the learner can:
    - *interact in a simple way*
    - *ask and answer simple questions about themselves, where they live, people they know, and things they have*
    - *initiate and respond to simple statements in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics*
  - rather than relying purely on a very finite rehearsed, lexically organized repertoire of situation-specific phrases.



# A2: Waystage

- the majority of descriptors stating **social functions** are to be found:
  - *use simple everyday polite forms of greeting and address*
  - *greet people, ask how they are and react to news*
  - *handle very short social exchanges*
  - *ask and answer questions about what they do at work and in free time*
  - *make and respond to invitations*
  - *discuss what to do, where to go and make arrangements to meet*
  - *make and accept offers*

- **transactional specifications:**
  - *make simple transactions in shops, post offices, or banks*
  - *get simple information about travel*
  - *use public transport: buses, trains, and taxis, ask for basic information, ask and give directions, and buy tickets*
  - *ask for and provide everyday goods and services*



# A2+ : Strong Waystage (1)

- more **active participation** in conversation:
  - *initiate, maintain and close **simple, restricted** face-to-face conversation;*
  - *understand enough to manage **simple, routine** exchanges without undue effort*
  - *make him/herself understood and exchange ideas and information on **familiar** topics in **predictable everyday** situations, provided the other person helps if necessary*
- *communicate successfully on **basic** themes if he/she can ask for help to express what he wants to*
- *deal with **everyday** situations with **predictable** content, though he/she will generally have to compromise the message and search for words*
- *interact with reasonable ease in **structured** situations, given some help, but participation in open discussion is fairly restricted*

# A2+ : Strong Waystage (2)

- significantly more ability to sustain monologues:
  - express *how he/she feels* in simple terms
  - give an *extended description* of everyday aspects of his/her environment e.g. people, places, a job or study experience
  - describe *past activities* and *personal experiences*
  - describe *habits and routines*
- describe *plans and arrangements*
- explain *what he/she likes or dislikes* about something
- give short, basic descriptions of *events and activities*
- describe *pets and possessions*
- use simple descriptive language to make brief statements about and *compare objects and possessions*.

# B1 : Threshold Level (1)

- the ability to **maintain interaction** and get across what you want to, in a range of contexts:
  - *generally follow the main points of **extended** discussion around him/her, provided speech is clearly articulated in standard dialect*
  - *give or seek **personal views and opinions** in an informal discussion with friends*
  - *express the **main point** he/she wants to make comprehensibly*
- ***exploit** a wide range of simple language flexibly to express much of what he or she wants to*
- ***maintain a conversation** or discussion but may sometimes be difficult to follow when trying to say exactly what he/she would like to*
- ***keep going comprehensibly**, even though pausing for grammatical and lexical planning and repair is very evident, especially in longer stretches of free production*

# B1 : Threshold Level (2)

- the ability to **cope flexibly with problems in everyday life**:
  - cope with *less routine* situations on public transport
  - deal with *most situations* likely to arise when making travel arrangements through an agent or when actually travelling
  - enter *unprepared* into conversations on familiar topics
  - make a *complaint*
- take some *initiatives* in an interview/consultation (e.g. to bring up a new subject) but is very dependent on interviewer in the interaction
- ask someone to *clarify or elaborate* what they have just said.

# B1+ : Strong Threshold (1)

- the exchange of quantities of information:
  - *take messages communicating enquiries, explaining problems*
  - *provide **concrete information** required in an interview/consultation (e.g. describe symptoms to a doctor) but does so with limited precision*
  - ***explain why** something is a problem*
  - ***summarise and give his or her opinion** about a short story, article, talk, discussion, interview, or documentary and **answer further questions** of detail*
- *carry out a **prepared interview**, checking and confirming information, though he/she may occasionally have to ask for repetition if the other person's response is rapid or extended*
- *describe **how to do something**, giving detailed instructions*
- ***exchange accumulated factual information** on familiar routine and non-routine matters within his/her field with some confidence.*