

Progression with the CEF or Common European Framework for Languages

Learners can start their journey at the A1 level as a beginner and finish at the C2 level as a master of the language. They may choose to stop at one of the levels when their purposes have been met or their goals attained. (Most learners do not progress beyond the B2 level.)

How learners reach the different levels depends on many factors, including teaching methodology, students' motivation, their reason or purpose for learning, the course book and materials used, the amount of time taken, and others.

C. Defining how long it will take to reach each CEF level

As mentioned before in this guide, one of the main concerns of teachers is how long it takes to reach each level. At first glance, the CEF appears to be like a staircase with each step the same distance from the next (A1 to A2 to B1 to B2, etc.). This might seem to indicate that each step or level should be achieved in an equal amount of time. But learning a language is like climbing a mountain:

Quick reference:

Learning a language is like climbing a mountain: The higher you go, the harder it gets.

the ascent gets harder the higher you climb. It does *not* take the same amount of time to reach each level. It will take longer to get to B2 from B1 than it does to get to A2 from A1.

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Because no two learners develop their language skills in the same way or at the same pace, it is difficult to define the exact amount of time needed to reach each level.

The *Association of Language Testers of Europe* (ALTE),

whose members have aligned

their language examinations with the CEF, provides guidance on the number of guided teaching hours needed to fulfill the aims of each CEF level:

Quick reference:

It is difficult to define the amount of time needed to reach CEF level. The number of hours is different for every learner.

A1	Approximately 90 - 100 hours
A2	Approximately 180 - 200 hours
B1	Approximately 350 - 400 hours
B2	Approximately 500 - 600 hours
C1	Approximately 700 - 800 hours
C2	Approximately 1,000 - 1,200 hours

Guided teaching hours are the hours during which the learner is in a formal learning context such as the classroom. The number of hours needed for different learners varies greatly, depending on a range of factors such as

- age and motivation
- background
- amount of prior study and extent of exposure to the language outside the classroom
- amount of time spent in individual study