



IOR Global Services: Proficiency Scale

IOR uses the Common European Framework Reference when assessing language students' level of proficiency.

Achieving proficiency in a language requires a significant commitment. The number of hours shown are the total **minimum number of guided hours of instruction** students generally need to achieve the level of proficiency.

- Guided instruction needs to be consistent over an extended period of time.
 - Students need a minimum of 3 instructional hours per week with additional practice outside of training.
 - Intensive courses can achieve some results fast, but the language skills must be reinforced later on.
 - At level B2 or higher, immersion in a country where the language is spoken in addition to formal training is needed to achieve more proficiency.
 - Without constant use and exposure, language proficiency can backslide to lower levels.
- Students will vary in the number of hours they need depending on motivation, consistency in training, and aptitude.

The descriptions below show what a student *can do* in each language skill after achieving each level of proficiency.

Beginning	A1 90 hrs	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed to satisfy 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 and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
	A2 180 hrs	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 his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
Intermediate	B1 270 hrs	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 when traveling 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, dreams, hopes and ambitions, and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
	B2 420 hrs	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without difficulty for either person. 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.
Advanced	C1 570 hrs	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognize implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
	C2 750 hrs	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarize 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.