

Self-assessment: description of the CEFR Levels and links to self-assess your level

A1 LEVEL

According to the CEFR (the Common European Framework of Reference), the A1 level is reached in 60 to 80 hours.

The skills according to the CEFR at the end of A1:

Spoken expression

- I can use simple expressions and phrases to describe where I live and people I know.
- I can communicate in a simple way, provided that the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase at a slower rate and help me express what I am trying to say.
- I can ask and answer simple questions about familiar subjects or the satisfaction of immediate needs.

For instance, I can ask: « Comment ça va ? », « Où est la pharmacie ? », « A quelle heure ferme le bureau de poste, s'il vous plaît ? », « Tu as des frères et sœurs ? »

Written expression

- I can write short, simple postcards, for example sending holiday greetings.
- I can fill out forms with personal details.

For example, I can write my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.

Listening comprehension

- I can understand familiar words and very common expressions concerning myself, my family and immediate concrete surroundings, when people speak slowly and clearly.

Reading comprehension

- I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues.

For instance, I can take a bus in France and understand at which time it arrives and where it goes.

For self-assessment :

- **A0 Level** : you have never studied French : you have never studied French ; you don't know a word, nor a sound of French. You cannot read or understand anything in French.
- **A1.1 Level** : you have already taken 20 hours of French lessons : vous can say who you are and understand a few words. You know the sounds of French.
- **A1.2 Level** : you have already taken 40 hours of French lessons.

You are hesitating : you do not know if you have already acquired the skills of the A1 level or need to go on studying at that level?

Click on the links below and take the placement tests for the A1 level!

<http://www.bosvick.com/didapages/DidaEvalA1/>

<https://savoirs.rfi.fr/fr/apprendre-enseigner/langue-francaise/test-de-placement-ndeg2-a1/1>

In order to reach the A1 Level at Institut français de Finlande, you need to take 4 courses of A0 and A1 (22h30 each). You can also combine standard French courses, conversation courses, online courses and/or private tuition, in order to reach the minimum of 60-80 hours of French.

A2 LEVEL

According to the CEFR, the A2 level is reached in 180 hours; you need to have studied for 90 hours to switch from A1 to A2.

The skills according to the CEFR at the end of A2:

Spoken expression

- I can use a series of phrases and expressions to describe in simple terms my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my current or most recent job.
- I can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities.
- I can handle very short exchanges, even though I cannot usually understand enough to keep the conversation going.

For example, I can explain what type of work I am doing, and describe the city I am living in ; I can also ask a few questions on the same matters, but I cannot have a long conversation.

Written expression

- I can write short, simple notes and messages.
- I can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking somebody for something.

For example, I can write a short message, of 5-6 lines, to thank a friend for having had me for dinner at his place.

Listening comprehension

- I can understand phrases and frequently occurring vocabulary related to areas of immediate personal relevance (for example, myself, my family, shopping, local area, my job).
- I can grasp the main idea in simple notices and messages.

For instance, I can understand when another person gives information in himself/ herself (his/ her name, nationality, age...) or talk about his/ her family or hobbies.

Reading comprehension

- I can read very short simple texts.
- I can find specific, predictable information in everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus, and timetables.
- I can understand short, simple personal letters.

For example, I can find a phone number, a date or a price on an advertisement or on a menu. I can also understand a short (3-4 lines) message of invitation.

For self-assessment :

- **A2.1 Level** : you have already taken 100 hours of French lessons.
- **A2.2 Level** : you have already taken 150 hours of French lessons.

You are hesitating : you do not know if you have already acquired the skills of the A2 level or need to go on studying at that level?

Click on the links below and take the placement tests for the A2 level!

<http://www.bosvick.com/didapages/DidaEvalA2/>

<https://savoirs.rfi.fr/fr/apprendre-enseigner/langue-francaise/test-de-placement-ndeg2-a2/1>

In order to reach the A2 Level at Institut français de Finlande, you need to take 4 courses of A2 (22h30 each). You can also combine standard French courses, conversation courses, online courses and/or private tuition, in order to reach the minimum of 90 hours of French at the A2 level.

B1 LEVEL

According to the CEFR, the B1 level is reached in 350 to 400 hours; you need to have studied for 170 to 220 hours to switch from A2 to B1.

The skills according to the CEFR at the end of B1:

Spoken expression

- I can express myself in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, as well as my dreams, hopes and ambitions.
- I can briefly give reasons and explanations for my opinions and future plans.
- I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.
- I can deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in a place where French is spoken.
- I can take part in conversations without preparation on topics that are familiar or of personal interest or related to everyday life (for example, family, leisure, work, travel and current events).

For example, I can sum up an article from a newspaper, the story of a film or of a book, and express my reactions. I can also have small talks with French friends, on my routine, my last week-end, or my next holidays.

Written expression

- I can write a simple and coherent text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest.
- I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

For instance, I can write a summary and a short and simple review of a film.

Listening comprehension

- I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar topics concerning work, school, leisure, etc.
- I can understand the main point of many radio and television programs on current events or on topics of personal or professional interest when the language is spoken in a relatively slow and clear way.

For instance, I can understand if the teacher explains in very simple terms the way the French educational system works.

Reading comprehension

- I can understand texts that for the most part use everyday or job-related language.
- I can understand the description of events and the expression of sentiments and best wishes in personal letters.

For instance, I can understand a letter of a friend telling me about the holiday he is spending in France, what he visited and how was his travelling experience in general.

For self-assessment :

- **B1.1 Level** : you have already taken 200 hours of French lessons.
- **B1.2 Level** : you have already taken 270 hours of French lessons.

You are hesitating : you do not know if you have already acquired the skills of the B1 level or need to go on studying at that level?

Click on the links below and take the placement tests for the B1 level!

<http://www.bosvick.com/didapages/DidaEvalB1/>

<https://savoirs.rfi.fr/fr/apprendre-enseigner/langue-francaise/test-de-placement-ndeg2-b1/1>

In order to reach the B1 level at the Institut français de Finlande, you need to take 4 to 8 sessions of B1 (22h30 each, 90h to 180h in total). You can also combine standard French courses, conversation courses, cultural workshops, online courses and/or private tuition, in order to reach the minimum of 170-220 hours of French.

B2 LEVEL

According to the CEFR, the B2 level is reached in 500 to 600 hours; you need to have studied for 150 to 200 hours to switch from B1 to B2.

The skills according to the CEFR at the end of B2:

Spoken expression

- I can express myself in a clear and detailed manner on a wide range of topics related to my areas of interest.
- I can express my point of view on a subject of current events and explain the pros and cons of various options.

- I can communicate with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes it possible to have a normal interaction with a native speaker.
- I can take an active part in a conversation in familiar settings, expressing and defending my opinions.

Written expression

- I can write clear and detailed texts on a wide range of topics related to my interests.
- I can write an essay or report, transmitting information or giving reasons for or against a given opinion.
- I can write letters emphasizing the personal significance for me of events and experiences.

Listening comprehension

- I can understand long presentations and lectures and even follow complex arguments, provided the topic is relatively familiar to me.
- I can understand most TV news and current affairs programs.
- I can understand most films in standard French.

Reading comprehension

- I can read articles and reports on contemporary issues in which the authors adopt a certain attitude or point of view.
- I can understand contemporary prose literature.

Links to activities for self-assessment:

<http://www.bosvick.com/didapages/DidaEvalB2/>

<https://savoirs.rfi.fr/fr/apprendre-enseigner/langue-francaise/test-de-placement-ndeg2-b2/1>

For self-assessment :

- **B2.1 Level** : you have already taken 450 hours of French lessons.
- **B2.2 Level** : you have already taken 550 hours of French lessons.

You are hesitating : you do not know if you have already acquired the skills of the B2 level or need to go on studying at that level?

Click on the links below and take the placement tests for the B2 level!

<http://www.bosvick.com/didapages/DidaEvalB1/>

<https://savoirs.rfi.fr/fr/apprendre-enseigner/langue-francaise/test-de-placement-ndeg2-b1/1>

In order to reach the B2 level at the Institut français de Finlande, you need to take 4 to 8 sessions of B1 (22h30 each, 90h to 180h in total). You can also combine standard French courses, conversation courses, cultural workshops, online courses and/or private tuition, in order to reach the minimum of 150-200 hours of French.

C1 LEVEL

The amount of time necessary to reach this level: according to the CEFR, the C1 level is reached in 700 to 800 hours; you need to have studied for 200 to 300 hours to switch from B2 to C1.

The skills according to the CEFR at the end of C1:

Spoken expression:

- I can provide clear, detailed descriptions on complex subjects, integrating related themes, developing particular points, and concluding in an appropriate manner.
- I can express myself fluently and spontaneously without searching for my words.
- I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes.
- I can express my ideas and opinions with precision and relate my statements to those of my interlocutors.

Written expression

- I can express myself in clear and well-structured text and present my own point of view.
- I can write about complex subjects in a letter, essay or report, highlighting what I consider to be the important points.
- I can adopt a style appropriate to the intended reader.

Listening comprehension

- I can understand a long speech even if it is not clearly structured and the connections are only implicit.
- I can understand TV programs and films with minimal effort.

Reading comprehension

- I can understand long and complex texts, both factual and literary, appreciating differences of style.
- I can understand specialized articles and long technical instructions even when not related to my field.

For self-assessment :

You can enrol in a C1 class if you have already taken 700 hours of French courses, can already write and speak with no major difficulty and are willing to master the slightest shades of meaning of French language and culture.