

My English Journey: Self-assessment of English Skills

Suggestion for use: read the statements in each section – listening, reading, etc. – and decide which one best describes you today. Write today's date on the line next to the best description. Later – for example, next year – do it again and see how much your English has improved.

Understanding

Listening

_____ **A 1:** I can understand familiar words and very basic phrases concerning myself, my family, and immediate surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.

_____ **A 2:** I can understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment). I can catch the main points in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.

_____ **B 1:** I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I can understand the main points of many radio or TV programs on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.

_____ **B 2:** I can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most TV news and current affairs programs. I can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.

_____ **C 1:** I can understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signaled explicitly. I can understand television programs and films without too much effort.

_____ **C 2:** I have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided I have some time to get familiar with the accent.

Reading

_____ **A 1:** I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalog.

_____ **A 2:** I can read very short, simple texts. I can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables and I can understand short simple personal letters.

_____ **B 1:** I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.

_____ **B 2:** I can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints. I can understand contemporary literary prose.

_____ **C 1:** I can understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style. I can understand specialized articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to my field.

_____ **C 2:** I can read with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialized articles and literary works.

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Speaking

Spoken interaction

_____ **A 1:** I can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.

_____ **A 2:** 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 social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself.

_____ **B 1:** I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst traveling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).

_____ **B 2:** I can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. I can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views.

_____ **C 1:** I can express myself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes. I can formulate ideas and opinions with precision and relate my contribution skillfully to those of other speakers.

_____ **C 2:** I can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms. I can express myself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. If I do have a problem I can backtrack and restructure around the difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.

Spoken production

_____ **A 1:** I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know.

_____ **A 2:** I can use a series of phrases and sentences to describe, in simple terms, my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or most recent job.

_____ **B 1:** I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.

_____ **B 2:** I can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to my field of interest. I can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

_____ **C 1:** I can present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.

_____ **C 2:** I can present a clear, smoothly-flowing description or argument in a style appropriate to the context and with an effective logical structure that helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.

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Writing

_____ **A 1:** I can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.

_____ **A 2:** I can write short, simple notes and messages. I can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something.

_____ **B 1:** I can write simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

_____ **B 2:** I can write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to my interests. I can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. I can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.

_____ **C 1:** I can express myself in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length. I can write about complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining what I consider to be the salient issues. I can select a style appropriate to the reader in mind.

_____ **C 2:** I can write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style. I can write complex letters, reports or articles that present a case with an effective logical structure that helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points. I can write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.