

CEFR Level C2

Students at Level C2 demonstrate a degree of precision, appropriateness and ease with the language which typifies the speech of those who have been highly successful learners. They are able to convey finer shades of meaning precisely by using, with reasonable accuracy, a wide range of modification devices. They have a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms with awareness of connotative level of meaning and can backtrack and restructure around a difficulty so smoothly the interlocutor is hardly aware of it.

Listening They can understand virtually any kind of spoken language, even when delivered at fast native speed and employing a high degree of colloquialism, regional usage or unfamiliar terminology.

Reading They can understand with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, complex texts such as specialised articles and literary works. They can appreciate subtle distinctions of style and implicit as well as explicit meaning.

Speaking Students at C2 level can take part effortlessly in any discussion. They can express themselves fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. They can backtrack and restructure around any difficulty of formulation so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.

Writing They can write clear, smooth-flowing, well-structured text in an appropriate style. They are able to write complex reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice significant points. They can write reviews of professional or literary works.

Learner Outcomes

Students will be able to use the following:

Functions	Example
Expressing attitudes and feelings precisely.	This is something which I feel very strongly about.
Expressing certainty, probability, and doubt.	Judging from his face, I would say that he probably...
Speculating and hypothesising about causes, consequences, etc.	Supposing the economic crisis hadn't happened?
Expressing shades of opinion and certainty.	It is a strong belief of mine that...
Expressing reaction, e.g. indifference.	That's absolutely amazing.
Critiquing and reviewing.	The report starts well but, in my opinion, there are a number of points which it has failed to note.
Developing an argument systematically.	It could be argued that...However,...
Emphasizing a point, feeling, or issue.	What I would like to emphasize is that...
Defending a point of view persuasively.	I do see where you are coming from but I think that all the evidence strongly suggests that...
Responding to counterarguments.	You could well be right but I would still strongly argue that...

Grammar	Example
Narrative tenses for experiences, including passive.	When I got home, I found that my husband had cleaned the house. Not only that but he had also spent the previous 2 hours cooking me dinner. There was nothing left to do but sit down and relax.
Used to (narrative).	When I was younger, I used to visit my grandparents every summer. One year,...
Would expressing habit in the past (narrative).	When I was a child, I would cry every time I saw a clown.
Futures (revision).	The prime minister is to meet his counterpart within the next few days.
Mixed conditionals in the past, present and future.	If I had gone to university, I would be in a better job now.
Wish/if only & regrets.	I wish I'd never met him.
Phrasal verbs.	The government has decided to crack down on drug use.
The grammar of phrasal verbs.	The woman called off the meeting/The woman called the meeting off.
Passive forms.	He is known to have escaped in a red car.
Modals in the past.	I needn't have cooked so much as 5 of my friends didn't show up.
Inversion (negative adverbials).	Not once has he apologised for his mistake.

Discourse markers	Example
Markers to structure and signpost informal speech and writing.	I wouldn't trust him. Mind you, he did a good job in the past.
Markers to structure and signpost formal speech and writing.	The health risks of smoking are widely known. Nevertheless, many people still continue to smoke.

Lexis and topics

Collocations, colloquial language, approximating (vague language), differentiated use of vocabulary, eliminating false friends, formal and informal registers, idiomatic expressions, books and literature/ media / arts, news, lifestyles and current affairs/ scientific development / technical and legal language.