

Program contents

The program contents are defined along three axes: skills, linguistic aims and vocabulary aims in association with the levels A1 – C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages of the Council of Europe.

DURATIONS

Level A1 - 4 to 5 weeks of intensive courses

Level A2 - 5 weeks of intensive courses

Level B1 - 7 weeks of intensive courses

Level B2 - 8 to 10 weeks of intensive courses

Level C1 - 6 to 8 weeks of intensive courses

Level C2 - 6 to 8 weeks of intensive courses

DESCRIPTION OF THE LEVELS

Skills A1

Oral Comprehension

- Simple directions of orientation.
- A simple question, an invitation, a meeting.
- Numbers, prices, and time.
- Polite phrases and methods of introducing oneself.
- The identity, origins, and profession of a person.
- The basic description of an object or a person.

Written Comprehension

- Information about identity.
- An identity questionnaire.
- Urban street signs (ex.: train/bus station, parking, no smoking, etc.)
- Clear commands for computer programs (ex.: save, quit, restart, shut down, open, close, erase...)
- A simple postcard, an invitation.
- A cinema schedule, a concert program.

Oral Expression

- Introduce oneself or present someone else (address, telephone number, nationality, age, family, hobbies)
- Say hello and excuse oneself, saying goodbye.
- Count.
- Ask and give the time.
- Pose simple questions about personal life (where someone lives, his/her profession, marital status...)
- Situate oneself in time using simple expressions (ex.: next week, last Friday, in November, at three o'clock.)
- Describe one's home and belongings.
- Express pain, the feeling of lacking.
- Speak of the existence of a thing or a place, identify it and describe it simply. (« Il y a », « c'est », « il est »)
- Express possession.
- Describe daily, cultural, or sports activities.
- Express a personal taste.
- Speak about current or habitual actions.
- Speak about one's origins.
- Use the following expressions: « Excusez-moi », « je ne comprends pas », « vous pouvez répéter s'il vous plait », « vous pourriez parler plus lentement »...
- Pose the following questions: « Comment on dit? », « Comment ça s'écrit? », « Comment on prononce? », « qu'est-ce que ça veut dire? »...

Written Expression

- Fill out an identity form.
- Create short sentences to introduce oneself or someone else.
- Write a simple post card, from vacation for example.
- Write a message that describes the time and place to meet up with someone.
- Write an activity program.

Oral Comprehension

- Identify a subject of conversation.
- Understand details about family, shopping, work, and relationships.
- Understand a culinary recipe, if it is accompanied by images.
- Identify the subject of a short radio report if it is current and the delivery is slow.
- Grasp the essential information contained in a newscast if it is accompanied by images.

Written Comprehension

- The details of daily activities, an agenda, a meeting, or rescheduling a meeting.
- Information contained in leaflets about activities, expositions, or concerts and identification of the most important details.
- Classified ads: dimensions and price of an apartment, a car, a computer.
- Simple directions for use (ex.: ATM, public telephone...).

Oral Expression

- Greet someone, ask for news, and react to the response.
- Apologize and accept apologies.
- Execute simple transactions in a store, a bank, or at the post office.
- Explain what one is looking for in a shop and inquire about the price.
- Compare objects and things.
- Ask for information regarding a trip (price, duration, time schedule, discount).
- Use public transport (bus, train, taxi).
- Order something to eat or drink.
- Express a quantity.
- Communicate the chronology of an event in the present tense, the past tense, the near future, and the simple future.
- Express the frequency of an action.
- Briefly recount the past weekend.
- Describe projects and the necessary preparations.
- Ask or give directions.
- Place or locate an object or an accommodation.
- Invite someone, accept or refuse an invitation.
- Organize a meeting.
- Propose a night out, a weekend...
- Express one's tastes, leisure activities, interests.

Written Expression

- Relate an event from the past (ex.: a party.)
- Respond to a somewhat elaborate questionnaire about educational background, work, personal interests.
- Write a letter to inquire about something, to say hello to someone, or to thank someone.
- Use the conjunctions *and*, *but* and *because*.
- Use words to express chronology (first, then, later, after).
- Create imaginary biographies.

Skills B1

Oral Comprehension

- Follow a conversation about a current subject if the delivery is slow. For example: vacations, free time, work.
- Understand a brief narration and its chronology.
- Understand the principle points of a recorded radio program describing the news in brief for example.
- Understand the subject of a televised debate.
- Understand the technical instructions to use something (ex.: a household appliance, a car...).
- Understand an emotional reaction or the expression of a feeling.

Written Comprehension

- Understand the essential points of short news articles.
- Understand a point of view or a simple argument.
- Guess the sense of certain words using context clues.
- Understand the messages of pamphlets from associations or public services.
- Understand a private correspondence concerning events, feelings or desires.
- Read an excerpt from a novel and understand the plot, if the excerpt is short and well-structured.

Oral Expression

- Able to express oneself in all situations concerning a trip (ex.: loss of baggage, delays, ticket loss, price error...)
- Express feelings (ex.: surprise, joy, sadness, curiosity, indifference) and react to the same types of feelings.
- Give an opinion or discuss a subject.
- Politely explain agreement or disagreement.
- Tell a story in the past.
- Relate a detailed experience and describe the reactions to this experience.
- Describe a dream, a hope, a goal.
- Recount short passages of a written text.
- Use the following expressions: « qu'est-ce que tu veux dire exactement », « c'est à dire », « tu peux préciser, développer.. ».
- Rephrase using different words in the case of misunderstanding.
- Make a complaint.
- Explain or inquire about a duration of time.
- Establish a program, speak about a project.
- Express a connection of cause and consequence.

Written Expression

- Give an opinion on an everyday topic.
- Relate an event in the past, an anecdote, a trip.
- Respond to an ad and give more details.
- Correspond in a personal manner with a friend to relate an event and make comments.
- Create a simple CV (under a table format.)
- Write an informative email.
- Establish a program for a vacation, for example, and formulate projects.

Skills B2

Oral Comprehension

- Understand details given in a noisy environment.
- Understand a course on a subject of interest.
- Grasp the tone of a radio report.
- Understand a news report, an interview, a film in standard spoken French.

Written Comprehension

- Understand the review of a performance.
- Understand and succinctly analyze a narrative or dramatic text.
- Understand rather specialized articles, almost without use of a dictionary.
- Quickly browse through a manual and understand the explanations for how to resolve a problem (ex.: the owner's manual of a camera.)
- Skim through a document and evaluate if it is necessary and/or interesting to read entirely.

Oral Expression

- Actively participate in a conversation of a certain length discussing most of the general themes of interest.
- Volunteer and defend one's opinions concerning different subjects.
- Disagree with someone.
- Lead a pre-prepared interview.
- Precisely report on the news, an interview, a special report...
- Express a point of view outlining the advantages and disadvantages.
- Express an impossible condition in the past.
- Make relationships between cause/consequence and talk about a hypothetical situation.
- Negotiate for a form of compensation in case of wrong-doing.
- Correct oneself in the case where one's error created a misunderstanding.
- Use different tones (ironic, sarcastic...) and different registers of language (standard, familiar, slang, formal).
- Use expressions to gain time all while maintaining flowing speech (ex.: « c'est difficile... », « je ne sais pas exactement... »).
- Express without difficulty the past, chronology, and duration.

Written Expression

- Write clear reports about different subjects.
- Summarize any type of document (written, audio, televised...)
- Recount an experience or an event in a very detailed manner.
- Write a review of a film, a book.
- Write a personal letter concerning an event explaining one's opinion and feelings.
- Create a claims letter for a warranty service, an insurance company, an internet service provider.
- Able to use arguing techniques, to present one's point of view based upon a collection of documents, tables, or diagrams.

Skills C1

Oral Comprehension

- Follow a conversation, even if it is not clearly structured.
- Understand idiomatic expressions and current phrases.
- Identify changes in style, tone, and rhythm.
- Understand an announcement even if the environment is very noisy.
- Understand a conference focusing upon a familiar subject.
- Understand dialogues discussing a film without too much difficulty even if they contain a good deal of slang.

Written Comprehension

- Read detailed reports, analyses, no matter the subject.
- Fluently read contemporary literary texts.
- Grasp the implicit messages, ideas and relations on a literary text, setting aside the story.
- Recognize the social, political, or historical context of a literary work.

Oral Expression

- Actively participate in a lively discussion with native speakers.
- Speak fluently and correctly about a large range of themes.
- Use humour and make allusions when speaking.
- Persuade/convince and react effectively to an argumentative attack.
- Present a report, without following the preparations, no matter the subject. To be able to respond to all spontaneous questions concerning this report.
- Use appropriate phrases to interject in speech or to gain time.
- Make skillful transitions to take over conversation.
- Quickly find synonyms in case of forgetting or to avoid repetitions.
- Express oneself easily, in a spontaneous manner with a rich vocabulary while maintaining a high degree of grammatical correctness.
- Use all logical conjunctions of speech.

Written Expression

- Compose a report of a meeting, of a seminar, or of a conference.
- Write an analysis and critique with arguments and examples.
- Write formal letters (contract terminations, complaints...).
- Know how to adapt the speech register according to the message's recipient.
- Express oneself in class at a writing workshop.

Skills C2

Oral Comprehension

- Absolutely no difficulty understanding speech regardless of the degree of formality, environment, or the delivery.
- Need to improve comprehension of different regional accents.

Written Comprehension

- Understand play on words and identify irony, satire...
- Understand texts written in very familiar language or heavy in slang.
- Understand rules and contracts regardless of the professional field.
- Understand classic or contemporary literary texts.
- Understand literary columns containing implicit information.
- Distinguish the devices of style.

Oral Expression

- Summarize an entire document, precisely reproducing the argument.
- Effortlessly outline points of view (of writers, philosophers...)
- Rephrase and reformulate ideas easily and without attracting attention.
- Utilize nuanced vocabulary and sense of time.
- Confidently employ idiomatic expressions.
- Able to manage difficult, or even hostile, questioning.

Written Expression

- Create reports, commentaries, reviews, stories...
- Outline a theme, summarizing the options of other possibilities.
- Write a formal letter (a request, an offer, a proposition to a client...)
- Write a personal letter using irony, humor, or ambiguity.