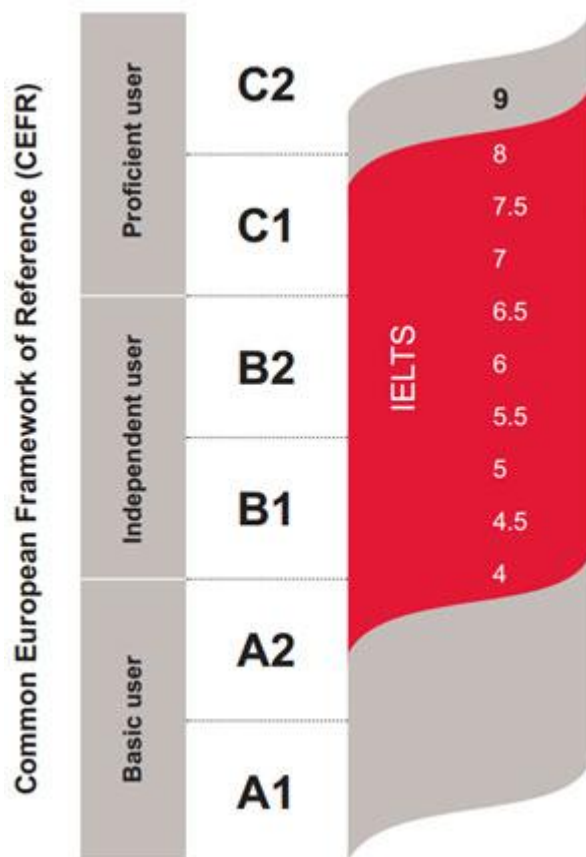


How to Compare CEFR with IELTS Scores?



Refer to the table below to know the comparison between CEFR and IELTS scores. Each level is discussed subsequently.

CEFR Level	Language Proficiency Level	Corresponding IELTS Band Score
C2	Expert User	8.5 - 9.0
C1	Very Good User	8.0
	Good User	7.0 - 7.5
B2	Competent User	6.0 - 6.5
	Modest User	5.0 - 5.5
B1	Limited User	4.0 - 4.5
A2	Extremely Limited User	3.0
A1	Intermittent User	2.0
	Non - User	1.0

Result Availability (maximum)	13 working days
Score Validity	2 Years

CEFR Level A1

CEFR level A1 refers to a basic user. Can comprehend and use simple terms. Identify themselves and provide or request for personal information. Can talk about common everyday topics.

CEFR Level A2

CEFR level A2 is about a basic user who can interpret commonly used phrases and expressions in day-to-day contexts like shopping, work, etc. Can give simple directions. Discuss various desires and requirements.

CEFR Level B1

CEFR level B1 refers to an independent user who can comprehend and talk about family, friends, work and leisure activities. Can articulate travel needs, brief paragraphs based on interests, aspirations and experiences.

CEFR Level B2

CEFR level B2 is equivalent to an independent user who is capable of composing documents of various themes. Comprehend major concepts using complicated texts. Discuss naturally with native speakers.

CEFR Level C1

CEFR level C1 talks about a proficient user who can comprehend convoluted talks or messages. Explain difficult concepts in professional, social or formal situations. Write detailed texts about in-depth subjects.

CEFR Level C2

CEFR level C2 is assigned to a proficient user who can comprehend, summarise any data that is easy to understand. In challenging circumstances, they can express themselves clearly.

Likewise, IELTS (International English Language Test System) is an international standardised test with four sections: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Non-native English speakers take this test to prove their language proficiency. Scores obtained out of 40 are converted to the band scale of 0 to 9.

Why Compare CEFR with IELTS?

If you're planning to study in European universities, then you must compare CEFR with IELTS. It is necessary to understand the relationships and comparative scenarios between IELTS and CEFR scores. Here's why:

- CEFR level uses more standardised scales to determine fluency in the English language.

- In Europe, teachers, examiners and students compare language skills and scores from tests and qualifications with CEFR.
- Since schools, colleges & universities find difficulty in measuring a student's language proficiency based on the IELTS band (eg. 8.0 - 8.5), they interpret IELTS scores to CEFR levels.
- Companies and other organisations prefer CEFR-level IELTS scores to measure a candidate's language fluency.
- As the IELTS 7.5 band score equates to the C1 level, and the 4.5 band score equates to the B1 level in the CEFR, IELTS users may know how much in IELTS will lead to achieving B1, B2 or above in CEFR.
- CEFR level IELTS scores comparison eliminates vague terms like "Basic," "Intermediate," and "Advanced" with the help of accurate indicators.
- Since CEFR stands for reflection, communication and empowerment, they convert IELTS scores recorded in the Test Report Form into the CEFR levels using a simple process.

What is the CEFR Level?

CEFR level is a scale with six points (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) ranging from A1 (basic fluency) to C2 (native-fluency level). It's developed to replace the old way of describing language ability, like "beginner," "intermediate," and "advanced." Teachers & learners across Europe use CEFR levels to interpret and compare different language proficiency levels with more reliable indicators. In addition, CEFR converts TOEFL and PTE scores.

The **CEFR English test** is a popularly acknowledged language standard initiated by the Council of Europe in the 1990s to help anyone involved in language teaching and testing. Companies and educational institutions use CEFR to compare language qualifications to other exams in their country. Since CEFR level IELTS is different from others, Cambridge Assessment English (CAE) mapped the correlation between IELTS band scores and CEFR fluency levels.

As per the Council of Europe, the main objectives of the CEFR test are as follows:

1. Promote plurilingualism and language diversification in the curriculum.
2. Develop the language curricula, positive 'can-do' statements and descriptors based on the learner's interests, needs, and age group.
3. Design and develop notes, textbooks and other teaching materials.
4. Provide quality and success in the learning process, teaching and standardised assessment.
5. Support the development of the plurilingual profile of language learners.
6. Ensure transparency and the comparability of certifications.
7. Enable teacher education and build cooperation among teachers and educators of various languages.

Key Notes on Overlapping

By now, you would notice that some IELTS scores overlap on two scores of the CEFR chart. For instance, the IELTS band 6.5 is between B2 and C1 of CEFR. It indicates that when certain applicants have a band score of 6.5, some might fall under the C1 level, while others

might have B2 level fluency based on their skills. However, the interpretation of scores varies depending on the expectations set by various universities. So, a top-tier university with high expectations always assigns C1 to band 7 rather than 6.5. Hence you are advised to double-check the university's minimum language requirements and prepare accordingly.