

English Language Institute Level Descriptors
(for placement/entry into a level)

Level 1 High Beginning CEFR A1	Students entering Level 1 have a limited ability to read or write in English. Their speaking fluency is basic and sentence structure is quite limited. Understanding questions or formulating replies can be challenging for students at this level.
Level 2 Pre-Intermediate CEFR A2	Students entering Level 2 can generally read and interpret basic sentences on familiar topics and formulate simple replies. Spoken and written sentence structure is often quite weak, and listening skills are in the developmental stage where a speaker may have to repeat him/herself.
Level 3 Intermediate CEFR B1	Students entering Level 3 can read and interpret simply structured sentences but may struggle with comprehension of complex ideas. Their spoken language skills are basic and lack sophistication, though they can generally get their intended point across regarding familiar or personal topics.
Level 4 High Intermediate 1 CEFR B1+	Students entering Level 4 have competent spoken communication skills, though they still lack the ability to formulate and integrate ideas and structures at a complex level or regarding abstract topics. They can write basic essays and understand the structure of a multi-paragraph essay.
Level 5 High Intermediate 2 CEFR B2-	Students entering Level 5 can synthesize information, connect ideas and phrases, and read and speak with confidence and fluency on concrete and some abstract topics. They can often understand longer writings as well as modified longer spoken conversations or dialogue.
Level 6 Pre-Advanced CEFR B2	Students entering Level 6 can sustain longer conversations dealing with concrete and abstract topics, but perhaps cannot initiate or guide such conversations. Grammatically, their use of verb tenses should be consistently correct as should their ability to formulate pertinent questions and use complex sentence structures.
Level 7 Advanced 1 CEFR B2+	Students entering Level 7 can compose a five-paragraph essay using a variety of conjunctions and connecting ideas. Their spoken fluency should be confident, relatively sophisticated, and free of many pronunciation errors. A student at this level can understand topical conversation and dialogue, but may struggle with technical, sophisticated academic topics and vocabulary.
Level 8 Advanced 2 CEFR C1-	Students entering Level 8 are near fluent and can use language flexibly and effectively for everyday and academic or professional purposes. Their spoken fluency allows them to ask questions easily, respond to questions using sophisticated vocabulary and structure, offer opposing viewpoints, and express their opinions clearly. A level 8 student will perform well on all facets of a standardized test and can read academic and journalistic articles with few problems.