

# Sign languages and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

## Descriptors and approaches to assessment



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This resource establishes European standards for sign languages for professional purposes in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and provides an overview of assessment descriptors and approaches.

### Resources



A website containing:

- definitions of CEFR proficiency levels for sign languages
- sign language videos and links to related projects and activities
- an assessment cycle for language proficiency in sign languages
- ideas for making good use of the CEFR (article by David Little)

*For the first time, we can ensure that content about the teaching and learning of sign languages is available via ECML in International Sign.*

Pro-Sign team

EN

International sign

The resources are for

- teachers and teacher trainers
- curriculum developers in tertiary educational environments
- university level educators
- international NGOs

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[www.ecml.at/prosign](http://www.ecml.at/prosign)

# Take a closer look


Here you will find descriptors for sign language competence across the CEFR-defined levels (A-C). The project team, working with experienced sign language teachers from across Europe agreed on CEFR-aligned descriptors for sign languages, presented here in International Sign and in English. A and B level descriptors have been “road-tested” in tertiary institutions while C level descriptors are notional, and may need refining over time, as we understand more about the process of learning sign languages to a very high level of competency.

| Levels |    | Competences            |
|--------|----|------------------------|
| A1     | A2 | Production             |
| B1     | B2 | Comprehension          |
| C1     | C2 | Signed Interaction     |
|        |    | Interaction Strategies |
|        |    | Processing Text        |
|        |    | Pragmatic competencies |
|        |    | Thematic Development   |
|        |    | Qualitative factors    |

Comprehension as a member of a live audience  
 Comprehension of visual media  
 Identifying cues and inferring (signing)  
 Overall comprehension  
 Understanding conversation between native signers/speakers  
 Watching announcements and instructions  
 Watching tv and film

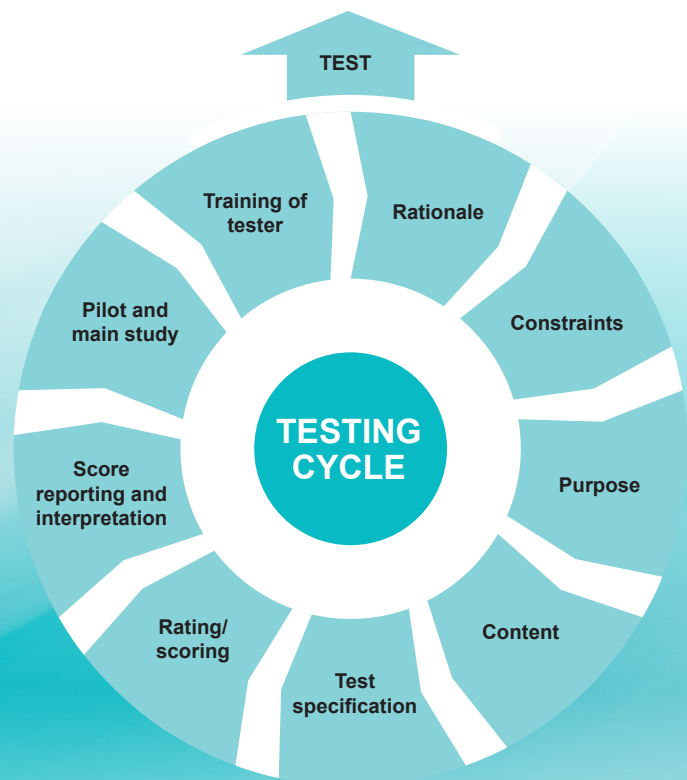
## Watching announcements and instructions

B2  
 Can understand announcements and messages on concrete and abstract topics signed in a standard or local dialect at normal speed.



Videos explaining the CEFR in International Sign for teachers new to CEFR are available on the website.

The web section dedicated to the assessment cycle presents core concepts related to test development. Here you will learn about concrete steps associated with assessment related to the CEFR and find examples that have been developed for a range of sign languages.



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