

Dynamic Speaking Test

Interpreting scores

How are scores expressed?

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is the most widely recognised international system for describing language proficiency. Although it was initially developed for European languages, it is now being adapted for language benchmarking in other countries, including Canada, Thailand and China. It can be readily cross-referenced with other systems for describing proficiency, including IELTS, TOEFL and OET.

CEFR level & Relative Numeric	IELTS band score	TOEFL iBT score	TOEFL iTP score	TOEIC score	OET score	CLB band score
C2	9.0	114-120			450-550 (A)	12
	8.5					
101	8.0					
	7.5					
C1	7.0	95-113	627-677	945-990	350-440 (B)	11
	6.5					
81	6.0				300-340 (C+)	10
	5.5					
B2	5.0	72-94	543-626	785-940	200-290 (C)	9
	4.5					
61	4.0					8
	4.0					
B1	4.0	42-71	460-542	550-780		7
	4.0					
41						6
A2			337-459	225-545		5
21						4
A1				120-220		3
01						2

The CEFR describes each of the six levels of proficiency (from A1 to C2) in terms of what language users ‘can do’. This is expressed as overall ‘can do’ statements, as well as specific ones for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. For example:



Can introduce themselves and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people they know and things they have.



Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in their field of specialization.

Delivering scores

As an administrator of Dynamic Speaking Test, you can choose how to deliver scores to test takers. When you set up the test you will be asked whether you want to show test takers their results. If you choose that option, then a level (e.g. A1 or B2) will be shown as soon as the test is submitted and scored. Alternatively, you can choose to end the test without displaying a result.

In all cases, test scores will be made available to Administrators in the Admin Panel, and within this format, they can be sorted or exported to Excel (or equivalent).

What is the Relative Numeric?

CEFR levels are broad — there are only six levels between Beginner and Advanced. Typically, an institution will have the majority of its test takers concentrated in one or two levels, perhaps A2 and B1. If the test is being used for placement purposes, it needs to be more precise in positioning students within a level, and this is the purpose of the Relative Numeric.

The Relative Numeric is an algorithm that looks at the test taker's score for each item, the CEFR level at which those items are targeted, and the overall CEFR level achieved. The algorithm assigns a score from 1 to 120. This Relative Numeric can be used within a level to rank test takers.

Example:

The test is taken by 200 students at the start of the semester and 120 of them end up with an A2 CEFR level. However, each student also gets a Relative Numeric (RN) between 21 and 40, and this can be used in the summary report to sort the A2 students into smaller, more defined groups at approximately the same level (for example, RN: 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40).

A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-120

Note that the Relative Numeric is deliberately not 0-100 so that there is no temptation to use it as a simple percentage score for the test.

Other scores

While the expected output of the Dynamic Speaking Test is a CEFR level A1 to C2, there are other possible outputs:



Unclassified. This means that not enough questions were attempted for a level to be assigned. Typically this happens if a test taker simply goes through the test not answering any questions. The test should be scheduled again for this test taker.



This means that the test was not done.



Also described as Pre-A1. Some questions were answered but almost everything was wrong or irrelevant. There is no evidence that the test taker has any English ability.

Relative strengths

As well as knowing the test taker's overall CEFR level, you probably also want to understand how they performed in the five subskills that the Dynamic Speaking Test assesses: Pronunciation, Grammar, Fluency, Vocabulary and Task Achievement. The relative strengths chart will show you this in an easily interpreted graphical format.

Example:

The test taker is relatively stronger in Fluency, Pronunciation and Task Achievement but is weaker in Grammar and Vocabulary.

