



The Common European Framework (CEF)

What is the Common European Framework? (CEF)

Since the early 1970s, a series of Council of Europe initiatives has developed a description of the language knowledge and skills that people need to live, work and survive in any European country. *Waystage* 1990¹, *Threshold* 1990² and *Vantage*³ detail the knowledge and skills required at different levels of ability.

In 2001, the contents of these documents were further developed into sets of 'can do' statements or 'competences' and officially launched as the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment* (CEF)⁴. A related document, *The European Language Portfolio*, encourages learners to assess their progress by matching their competence against the 'can do' statements.

face2face Student's Book	CEF level	Related examinations	Council of Europe document
Starter	A1		<i>Breakthrough</i>
Elementary	A2	KET Key English Test	<i>Waystage</i>
Pre-intermediate	B1	PET Preliminary English Test	<i>Threshold</i>
Intermediate			
Upper Intermediate	B2	FCE First Certificate in English	<i>Vantage</i>
Advanced			

The **face2face** series has been developed to include comprehensive coverage of the requirements of the CEF. The table shows how **face2face** relates to the CEF and the examinations which can be taken at each level through University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL), which is a member of ALTE (The Association of Language Testers in Europe).

In the spirit of *The European Language Portfolio* developed from the CEF, **face2face** provides a Progress Portfolio at the end of every Student's Book unit. Students are encouraged to assess their ability to use the language they have learned so far, and to review any aspects by using the CD-ROM/Audio CD. In the Workbook there is a *Reading and Writing Portfolio* section linked to the CEF and a comprehensive list of 'can do' statements in the *Reading and Writing Progress Portfolio*, which allows students to track their own progress.

What are the maps?

For each of the six levels of **face2face** there are two CEF maps: one which lists the CEF competences for Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing for that particular level; and one which shows how the units/lessons of **face2face** fulfil the CEF competences.

¹ *Waystage* 1990 J A van Ek and J L M Trim, Council of Europe, Cambridge University Press ISBN 978-0-521-56707-7

² *Threshold* 1990 J A van Ek and J L M Trim, Council of Europe, Cambridge University Press ISBN 978-0-521-56706-0

³ *Vantage* J A van Ek and J L M Trim, Council of Europe, Cambridge University Press ISBN 978-0-521-56705-3

⁴ *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment* (2001) Council of Europe Modern Languages Division, Strasbourg, Cambridge University Press ISBN 978-0-521-00531-9