

Modern foreign languages - at what level should I join?

What's on offer at a glance

	Basic user		Independent user		Proficient user	
ECF levels*	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Our levels	Beginner	Lower intermediate	Intermediate	Upper intermediate	Advanced	Proficiency/mastery
Spanish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Italian	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
French	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Portuguese	✓	✓	✓			
Polish	✓	✓	✓			
Japanese	✓	✓	✓			
German	✓	✓	✓			
Greek	✓					
Korean	✓					
Arabic	✓					
Russian	✓					
Chinese	✓					
EFL/IELTS			✓	✓		

Different levels explained

Beginners stage 1

Choose this stage if you have no knowledge of the language.

Beginners stage 2

Choose this stage if you have studied the language for approximately three months (20 hours) or if you can:

- understand by listening or reading a few familiar words and phrases
- say and write short simple phrases such as stating your name and nationality

- understand letters and symbols of the alphabet/sound system.

Beginners stage 3

Choose this stage if you have studied the language for approximately six months (40 hours) or if you can:

- understand by listening or reading a range of familiar spoken phrases (greetings, personal introduction etc.)
- answer simple questions and/or give basic information orally or in writing (eg, personal details, nationality, job etc.).

Please call 020 8753 3600 or go to the **how to enrol** section on the website for more details for more details.

What level should I join?

continued

Lower intermediate

Choose this stage if you have studied the language for approximately one year (60 hours) or if you can:

- hold a simple conversation and ask and answer simple questions on a variety of everyday topics (eg, personal introduction, shopping, directions, time and numbers etc.)
- read and write sentences or a short passage on a variety of everyday topics (eg, personal introduction, shopping, directions, time and numbers etc.)
- use present, basic past tenses and future.

Intermediate

Choose this stage if you have studied the language for approximately two years or if you can:

- take part in a simple conversation on a variety of everyday topics
- express your likes, dislikes and simple opinions
- write and/or understand a piece of formal or informal writing (eg, a short letter, note or summary)
- accurately use a range of present, future and past tenses.

Upper intermediate

Choose this stage if you have studied the language for approximately three years or if you can:

- understand the gist of a range of authentic conversations and produce a detailed oral or written summary of a given text

- take part in a discussion, giving and justifying opinions and ideas understand a wide range of authentic texts (eg, press articles) and produce a summary or translation of a given text
- use a wide range of grammar structures including conditional and subjunctive tenses, pronouns etc.

Advanced

Choose this stage if you have studied the language for approximately four years or can:

- understand authentic passages of moderate length and complexity involving one or more speakers (eg, interviews, adverts, news broadcast etc.)
- give a presentation on a theme and argue viewpoints with some degree of confidence
- understand articles from the press or other authentic sources and produce a written summary covering the majority of points
- confidently use a wide range of grammar structures including conditional and subjunctive tenses, pronouns etc.

Proficiency/mastery

For those who wish to use their language skills to gain an insight into the culture and society where the foreign language is spoken through a variety of authentic texts (literature, cinema, newspapers etc.). Courses are added regularly, so check our website for updates.

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