

General Speaking Scale

<b>Basic User</b>	A1	Can introduce themselves and others and can answer simple questions about personal details such as where they live, people they know and things they have. Can give a simple description of a picture while showing it to others, using basic words and formulaic expressions, provided they can prepare in advance. Can interact in a simple way, provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help. Will pause frequently mid-clause to help plan or repair.
	A2	Can give a simple description of people, basic personal and family information, living or working conditions, daily routines, and likes/dislikes. Can tell a story or describe a picture in a simple list of points. Can explain what they like or dislike about something using, basic adjectives like <i>math, inntinneach</i> . Can briefly say what they plan to do at the weekend or during the holidays. Can interact in short conversations, provided the other person helps if necessary.
<b>Independent User</b>	B1	Can give straightforward descriptions on a variety of familiar subjects that they are interested in. Can relate a straightforward narrative or description as a linear sequence of points with reasonable fluency. Can exchange, check and confirm information, deal with less routine situations and explain why something is a problem. Can express thoughts on more abstract, cultural topics such as films, books, music, etc. Can enter unprepared into conversation of familiar topics. Can describe experiences and future or hypothetical possibilities. Can express personal opinions and give reasons for those.
	B2	Can give clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to things they are interested in. Can describe the personal significance of events and experiences in detail. Can use the language fluently, accurately and effectively on a wide range of topics, marking clearly the relationships between ideas. Can communicate spontaneously with good grammatical control without much sign of having to restrict what they want to say, adopting a level of formality appropriate to the circumstances. Can interact with enough spontaneity that interaction with very proficient speakers does not impose strain on either party. Can account for and sustain views clearly by providing relevant explanations and arguments. May hesitate after every few words to search for vocabulary or expressions but can select these appropriately from their repertoire.
<b>Proficient User</b>	C1	Can give clear, detailed descriptions and presentations on complex subjects, integrating sub themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion. Can express themselves fluently and spontaneously, almost effortlessly. Has a good command of a broad lexical repertoire allowing gaps to be readily overcome with circumlocutions. There is little obvious searching for expressions or avoidance strategies, although hesitations may be noticeable after every few words for conceptually difficult subjects.
	C2	Can give clear, smoothly flowing, elaborate and often memorable descriptions. Can express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations. Hesitations may occur every few words in order to do this. Can backtrack and restructure around a difficulty so smoothly the interlocutor is hardly aware of it.

Remember: Each level includes and builds on the previous levels.