

Instructions for learners - Assessment

The assessment of sign language skills is based on so-called descriptors (“can-do statements“) in the areas of comprehension, production, and interaction and matched with the competence levels A1-C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). (More information on https://www.ecml.at/Portals/1/resources/Publications/PROSign_Common-Reference-Level-Descriptors-DE.pdf)

The assessment in learning sign languages can be divided into two areas: summative and formative.

The **summative** assessment measures the performance at a given moment and assesses a kind of "snapshot" of the sign language skills.

In the **formative** assessment the acquired skills of the learners are recorded at certain intervals. In this way the development of the language learning process can be made visible. Learning goals can be worked out in addition to the strengths and weaknesses on which they are based



The learners each receive an assessment form for the three skill areas of comprehension, production and interaction. On this form they can find their individual rating and the rating compared to the average scores of all participants.

Example from the skill area production:

- 1) **Table of individual assessment and comparison to average** The first part shows the average of the group and individual performance in percentages in a table. This is subdivided for the competence levels A1+A2 into the following criteria:

- spectrum ? range ?
- correctness
- language fluency
- coherence

And for the competence levels B1-C2 the following criteria are used:

- specialist aspects
- spectrum range ?
- correctness

- language fluency
- coherence

Adding the scores from the different areas gives a total percentage from which an individual grade can be derived.



- 2) In the second part a **matrix provides a graphic representation of the individual performances compared to the average** in terms of the assessment criteria.
- 3) In the final part **an individual grade is shown for each criterion**, which is calculated from the aforementioned percentages. The grading system follows the six-level system used in Germany, which also uses decimals with one place for intermediate grades. The rating is only made with grades from 1 to 5, where a grade worse than 4.0 means not passing/ failure.

Source: https://www.ecml.at/Portals/1/resources/Publications/PROSign_Common-Reference-Level-Descriptors-DE.pdf