

CEFR Descriptors^{*}
ACTFL Reading Proficiency Assessment
Institute for Test Research and Test Development
Leipzig, Germany

C2

Readers at the level C2 can understand and interpret critically any kind of text including opinion pieces, analyses and commentaries, complex reports, manuals and contracts as well as classical and contemporary literary texts in different genres that are deeply embedded in the culture. They understand precise, specialized, and low-frequency vocabulary and expressions, including idioms and slang. They can understand a wide range of long, abstract, and complex texts featuring analysis, argumentation, and hypothesis, including texts in which much is said in an indirect and ambiguous way. They are able to understand and appreciate subtle distinctions of style, understated or indirect meaning, hidden value judgments, as well as implied opinions, viewpoints, and connections. They are able to recognize contradictions, inconsistencies, or illogical arguments. They are able to appreciate shifts of tone and style in classical and contemporary literature and recognize their significance.

C1

Readers at the level C1 can understand in detail a wide range of lengthy, complex texts likely to be encountered in social, professional, or academic life, identifying finer points of detail including attitudes and implied as well as directly-stated opinions. They understand precise, often specialized and low-frequency vocabulary and expressions, including idioms and colloquialisms. They can understand a range of long, abstract, and complex texts featuring analysis, argumentation, supported opinion, and hypothesis. They can understand in detail lengthy, complex manuals, instructions, regulations and contracts in their field. They can read extensively, including novels, non-fiction and academic articles. They are skilled at using contextual, grammatical, and lexical cues to infer attitude, mood, and intentions and anticipate what will come next.

B2

Readers at the level B2 can read with a large degree of independence, adapting style and speed of reading to different texts and purposes, and using dictionaries and other reference sources selectively. They have a broad, active reading vocabulary, but may experience some difficulty with low-frequency items. They can read correspondence related to their personal and

^{*} These descriptors are based on the Common European Framework of Reference (Council of Europe, 2001) and the revised EAQUALS/ALTE Portfolio Descriptors 2008 (www.eaquals.org).

professional interests and readily grasp the essential meaning. They can quickly identify the content and relevance of news, articles and reports on a wide range of professional topics related to their job or interests, and decide if a closer reading is worthwhile. They can read short stories and novels written in a straightforward language and style. They can understand articles, reports, and reviews in which the writer expresses particular stances or viewpoints. They can understand lengthy instructions in their fields, for example in user manuals, provided they can reread difficult sections.

B1

Readers at the level B1 can understand the main points in straightforward factual texts on topics related to their personal and professional interests. They best understand texts that consist mainly of high-frequency, everyday vocabulary. They can understand the description of events, feelings, and wishes in personal letters well enough to be able to write a response. They can understand the main points in short, straightforward newspaper articles on familiar topics. They can understand simplified versions of novels and short stories with a clear structure. They can find and understand the information they need in everyday material, such as letters, brochures, and short, official documents. They can understand clearly-written, straightforward instructions, for example for operating equipment with which they are already familiar.

A2

Readers at the level A2 can understand short, simple texts containing frequently used words and phrases, names, cognates, and shared international vocabulary. They can understand short, simple emails and letters from friends and colleagues. They can find specific, predictable information in simple, everyday material such as advertisements, brochures, webpages, timetables and catalogues. They can understand the main points in short, simple descriptions of persons, places, and things with which they are familiar. They can understand simple instructions and directions.

A1

Readers at the level A1 can understand very short and simple texts a single phrase at a time, picking up familiar names, words, and basic phrases often with a great amount of rereading. They can understand short, simple, greetings and messages, for example in emails and text messages or postcards. They can find basic information in very simple everyday material such as advertisements, webpages, timetables and catalogues. They can understand information about people in very short and simple descriptions, especially if there is visual support. They can follow short, simple instructions and directions related to the most common everyday situations although frequent misunderstandings may occur.