Cardiff Metropolitan University | Prifysgol Metropolitan **Caerdydd**

Welsh Language

Skills Levels

Cymraeg

Welsh language *skills levels*

Cardiff Met's language levels correspond to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Welsh for Adults qualifications were mapped to the Framework in 2014.

Language Level	Welsh for adults level/qualification
A0 - No skills	Not applicable
A1 - Beginner	Entry
A2 - Basic user	Foundation
B1 - Intermediate user	Intermediate
B2 - Upper intermediate user	Advanced
C1 - Fluent user	Proficiency
C2 - Master user	Higher than any Welsh for adults level/qualification

A short descriptor has been provided for each level. An assessment of language levels should be made based on the skill descriptors in the tables below rather than any WJEC qualification, as the grades achieved and the time that has passed since gaining those qualifications vary from person to person.

Listening

Language level and descriptor	Skill descriptors
A0 - No skills Cannot understand or communicate in Welsh.	• No skills.
A1 - Beginner Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases in Welsh.	• Can understand everyday expressions, and very basic phrases if the speaker is talking slowly. • Can understand conversations about basic personal information, e.g. where someone lives, works, what they like doing, what they did. • Can guess what is being said when someone is giving details about events, such as time and place.
A2 - Basic user Can deal with simple, straightforward information and communicate in basic Welsh.	• Can understand when people talk about everyday situations, e.g. personal information, work, what they have done or would do, provided they talk slowly. • Can understand when people ask you or others to do something, and when they're asking about future plans, e.g. requesting a meeting.
B1 - Intermediate user Can communicate, to a limited level, in Welsh about things that are familiar and/or work related.	• Can understand information being given about common or everyday topics, or when things to do with work are being discussed, e.g. in conversation, or in small group meetings. • Can usually understand the main message and details, provided people speak clearly, e.g. when announcements are made or when listening to news bulletins.
B2 - Upper intermediate user Can express myself in Welsh on a range of topics and understand most of a conversation with a native speaker.	• Can usually follow most conversations or discussions, even on topics you're not familiar with. • Can understand most TV and radio programmes for first language speakers, unless they're speaking with a strong unfamiliar accent.
C1 - Fluent user Can communicate fluently in Welsh.	• Can easily follow all conversations and discussions between others, on all sorts of topics. • Can understand all kinds of spoken Welsh, including lectures or complex discussions.
C2 - Master user Can communicate fluently on complex and specialist matters in Welsh.	• Can understand any kind of spoken Welsh with ease, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided I have some time to get familiar with the accent.

Reading

Language level and descriptor	Skill descriptors
A0 - No skills Cannot understand or communicate in Welsh.	• No skills.
A1 - Beginner Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases in Welsh.	• Can understand very short phrases, and can guess what some notices mean. • Can understand short texts where people are giving basic information about themselves or others. • Can usually find details, such as time and cost, in advertisements or notices.
A2 - Basic user Can deal with simple, straightforward information and communicate in basic Welsh.	• Can understand messages about everyday things, and some very basic letters or e-mails, e.g. asking for something, or asking to pass a message on. • Can understand short pieces of texts or very simple books, e.g. books for children.
B1 - Intermediate user Can communicate, to a limited level, in Welsh about things that are familiar and/or work related.	• Can understand straightforward short articles on everyday topics of interest, or to do with work. • Can guess what words mean from the context, when the topic is familiar. • Can understand most e-mails and work-related documents.
B2 - Upper intermediate user Can express myself in Welsh on a range of topics and understand most of a conversation with a native speaker.	• Can understand most correspondence, and scan through long texts to find details. • Can understand most newspaper articles and reports aimed at first language speakers, with the aid of a dictionary. • Can understand novels and other texts, provided they are not written in a very formal or very colloquial style.
C1 - Fluent user Can communicate fluently in Welsh.	• Can read and understand nearly all written texts with ease, with only occasional reference to a dictionary. • Can read long texts, e.g. reports, articles, to find relevant details and understand nearly all types of writing, e.g. formal or informal.
C2 - Master user Can communicate fluently on complex and specialist matters in Welsh.	• Can easily read virtually all forms of the written language including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex text (e.g. manuals, specialised articles and literary works).

Speaking

Language level and descriptor	Skill descriptors
A0 - No skills Cannot understand or communicate in Welsh.	• No skills.
A1 - Beginner Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases in Welsh.	• Can use some familiar everyday expressions, e.g. greetings, thanks. • Can pronounce place names and names of people. • Can talk about basic personal things in an informal situation, e.g. interests, family, work, what you did yesterday. • Can talk about basic topics, e.g. the weather, time, prices.
A2 - Basic user Can deal with simple, straightforward information and communicate in basic Welsh.	• Can hold a basic conversation with someone else on a common everyday topic, provided the other speaker helps. • Can ask and answer questions on familiar topics, e.g. work, hobbies, preferences, things which have happened or future plans.
B1 - Intermediate user Can communicate, to a limited level, in Welsh about things that are familiar and/or work related.	• Can hold an extended conversation with a fluent speaker on a familiar topic, e.g. interests or work. • Can express a view and exchange information on a range of topics to do with everyday life, e.g. hobbies, travel or immediate work-related topics.
B2 - Upper intermediate user Can express myself in Welsh on a range of topics and understand most of a conversation with a native speaker.	• Can talk confidently with fluent speakers on familiar topics related to everyday life or work. • Can express views, engage in discussion, and speak at length about general topics, e.g. in a meeting, or in a one-to-one situation.
C1 - Fluent user Can communicate fluently in Welsh.	• Can express myself fully and precisely, even when discussing complex issues. • Can adapt my language style according to the audience, e.g. when speaking in a formal context or talking to colleagues. • Can speak at length about a complex issue, presenting arguments, and leading the discussion.
C2 - Master user Can communicate fluently on complex and specialist matters in Welsh.	• Can easily take part in any conversation or discussion and have good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms. • Can express myself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. If I do have a problem I can backtrack and restructure around the difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it. • Can present a clear, smoothly flowing description or gument in a style appropriate to the context and with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.

Writing

Language level and descriptor	Skill descriptors
A0 - No skills Cannot understand or communicate in Welsh.	• No skills.
A1 - Beginner Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases in Welsh.	• Can write very simple phrases or sentences about myself or others. • Can pass on a simple message or make a simple request, e.g. by e-mail.
A2 - Basic user Can deal with simple, straightforward information and communicate in basic Welsh.	• Can write a short note to a friend or colleague, asking for something, thanking them or explaining something, e.g. absence from work. • Can write a short text about a familiar topic, e.g. personal experience, or work-related experience.
B1 - Intermediate user Can communicate, to a limited level, in Welsh about things that are familiar and/or work related.	• Can write a letter on most topics, asking for things, giving explanations, describing experiences, inviting people, or organising an event. • Can write fairly accurately on most familiar topics, e.g. related to interests or work-related.
B2 - Upper intermediate user Can express myself in Welsh on a range of topics and understand most of a conversation with a native speaker.	• Can write a short article, review or report on a variety of subjects of a general nature, or which are work-related. • Can write detailed and well-structured texts, which are appropriate for the reader. • Can respond accurately to most types of correspondence from colleagues or external contacts.
C1 - Fluent user Can communicate fluently in Welsh.	• Can write extended texts, reports, articles, minutes or other types of writing in a style appropriate to the reader. • Can write in formal or informal Welsh as necessary. • Can write with a high degree of accuracy on a wide range of topics.
C2 - Master user Can communicate fluently on complex and specialist matters in Welsh.	• Can write clear, smoothly flowing text in an appropriate style. • Can write complex letters, reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points. • Can write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.

Sources of skill descriptors:

Levels A1-C1: www.learnwelsh.cymru/media/3239/151217description_sgiliau.pdf

Level C2: www.eui.eu/documents/servicesadmin/languagecentre/cef.pdf

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