CEFR A2 English Skills Guide

A practical can-do map for adult English learners

A2 at a glance	A2 is not fluency. It is the ability to manage predictable everyday communication with simple language, clear and slow speech, and occasional help. CEFR is a performance framework, so the target is what learners can do aloud, not only what they can recognize on a page.

Core A2 Can-Do Skills

Skill	Practical A2 outcome
Listening	Understand short, clear everyday questions, familiar instructions, times, prices, dates, directions, and the main point of simple messages or announcements.
Reading	Find key information in menus, schedules, forms, signs, short emails, simple webpages, short articles, and illustrated instructions.
Spoken interaction	Handle short social exchanges; ask and answer familiar questions; order, buy, request, arrange, ask directions, and exchange basic information.
Spoken production	Give a short linked description of family, work or study, home, routine, likes, a recent event, and simple plans.
Writing	Complete everyday forms and write short notes, messages, invitations, confirmations, and simple personal emails.
Conversation repair	Ask for repetition, slower speech, clarification, or a missing word instead of becoming silent.

Core Communicative Functions

- Introduce yourself and other people.	- Ask a follow-up question: What about you? Why? When? Where?
- Talk about family, work, study, home, routines, hobbies, food, and weather.	- Invite, accept, decline, thank, apologize, and make a simple arrangement.
- Describe a recent past event and an immediate future plan.	- Request help and check meaning: Could you repeat that? Please speak more slowly.

An A2 learner may still pause, make basic errors, and need repetition. The key question is whether the learner can complete a familiar, practical exchange.

Language Resources That Make A2 Possible

Build the resources around real-life communication tasks, not isolated grammar coverage.

Vocabulary	Personal information, family, home, work or study, daily routine, food, shopping, travel, transport, health, weather, hobbies, time, places, and local services.
Grammar for meaning	Present simple and continuous; past simple; basic future plans; questions and negation; articles, plurals, quantities, comparisons, prepositions; can, could, would like, and have to.
Longer answers	Use and, but, because, so, then, first, after that, and finally to connect simple ideas.
Pronunciation	Be understandable to a patient listener: clear final sounds, word stress, question intonation, and accurate numbers, dates, and prices.

A2 Exit Evidence

These are practical teacher benchmarks rather than official time or word-count requirements.

1	Hold a 4 to 6 minute familiar conversation with simple follow-up questions.
2	Give a 1 to 2 minute description of routine, work, home, or a recent experience without reading.
3	Complete a role-play: ordering food, asking directions, booking an appointment, buying a ticket, or solving a simple problem.
4	Listen to a short, clear everyday recording and identify the main message plus key details.
5	Write a short practical message with a clear purpose.
6	Recover from a misunderstanding with a clarification phrase instead of becoming silent.

Digital Nutrients teaching rule	Reading support is useful, but it is not proof of A2 speaking. Each lesson should include a spoken response, one relevant follow-up question, and one repair phrase such as Could you repeat that? or What does that mean?

Source note: This guide paraphrases the Council of Europe CEFR Companion Volume (2020) and its A2 illustrative descriptors. Official resources: www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages and rm.coe.int/cefr-companion-volume-with-new-descriptors-2020/16809ea0d4