CEFR B2 English Skills Guide

A practical can-do map for adult English learners

B2 at a glance	B2 is confident, flexible independent communication - not perfect or native-like English. Learners can sustain spontaneous discussion on a wide range of topics, understand standard language beyond immediate needs, and explain or defend a viewpoint with clear relationships between ideas.

Core B2 Can-Do Skills

Skill	Practical B2 outcome
Listening	Follow standard speech on familiar and unfamiliar personal, social, academic, and work topics; understand main ideas in complex concrete and abstract discussion, including signposted arguments and familiar technical talk.
Reading	Read fairly independently, adapting speed and approach to purpose; understand viewpoints and arguments in articles, reports, and familiar professional material, though rare idioms may still be difficult.
Spoken interaction	Converse spontaneously and appropriately across general, academic, vocational, and leisure topics; develop and defend views with relevant explanations and arguments.
Spoken production	Give clear, organized descriptions and presentations; emphasise key points, add relevant detail and examples, compare alternatives, and reach a conclusion.
Writing	Produce clear, detailed texts; synthesize and evaluate information or arguments from sources; write a report, proposal, review, or supported opinion.
Conversation management	Ask focused follow-up questions to verify meaning and clarify ambiguity; self-correct, reformulate for precision, manage turns, and help the discussion progress.

Core Communicative Functions

- Develop and defend a viewpoint, then respond constructively to a different view.	- Analyse and compare options, evaluate advantages and disadvantages, and recommend one.
- Explain a complex or abstract issue with examples, cause and effect, and a clear conclusion.	- Take part in formal and informal discussion, choosing a level of formality that fits the situation.
- Give an organized presentation that highlights important points and supporting evidence.	- Summarize the point reached in a discussion and propose a practical next step.

B2 is not accent perfection. The key evidence is independent control: clear relationships between ideas, relevant support for a viewpoint, and an effective response to other people.

Language Resources That Make B2 Possible

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

Vocabulary	Use a broad active repertoire for general, academic, work, and leisure topics; minor word-choice errors do not normally block communication.
Grammar for meaning	Show good control of common structures and some complex forms; occasional slips may occur, but they are usually minor and can often be self-corrected.
Discourse control	Make relationships clear through contrast, cause, concession, sequence, emphasis, and reference to earlier points; organize paragraphs and arguments coherently.
Pronunciation and fluency	Speak in longer stretches at a generally even pace, with clear stress and intonation; adjust formality and reformulate when precision matters.

B2 Exit Evidence

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

1	Hold an 8 to 12 minute unscripted discussion about a familiar contemporary or professional issue, responding to other viewpoints.
2	Give a 3 to 5 minute organized viewpoint presentation with reasons, an example, a counterpoint, and a conclusion.
3	Negotiate a solution to a less predictable problem: weigh options, answer a counterargument, and help reach a compromise.
4	Follow extended standard speech on a reasonably familiar topic and identify the main claim, speaker stance, supporting reasons, and conclusion.
5	Write a clear, detailed report, proposal, review, or opinion text that organizes information and supports a position with reasons or examples.
6	Repair misunderstanding naturally, reformulate for nuance, and manage turn-taking without relying on a reading prompt.

Digital Nutrients teaching rule	At B2, comprehension must become response. Learners should not only understand an argument; they should position themselves, extend or challenge ideas, and help the group conversation move forward.

Source note: This guide paraphrases the Council of Europe CEFR Companion Volume (2020) and its B2 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