

**?** *Did you know? The world is changing its approach to teaching French and so are we!*

## WHO

160 countries around the world have adopted a new and innovative approach for teaching French. It began as a project initiated by the Swiss government and was endorsed by the Council of Europe in 1997. Canadians have been exploring ways to use the approach since 2004.

## WHAT

CEFR helps students become confident enough to use French in real-life situations and it provides teachers with a common framework (techniques, standards and terminology) to describe how students are doing.

The focus of CEFR is on what students can do *with* the language not what they know *about* the language.

**?** *Did you know? Learning a second language is becoming increasingly more important in a global economy.*

## FOR STUDENTS

This new way of teaching French focuses on:

- ✦ Tasks and actions
- ✦ Real-life and authentic experiences
- ✦ Learning French naturally
- ✦ Spontaneous dialogue and discussion

## FOR TEACHERS

The common framework helps:

- ✦ Describe how well a student can read, write and speak French
- ✦ Defines what knowledge and skills students have to acquire in order to communicate in French
- ✦ Provides simple “can do” statements – these statements outline what a student at a particular level can do with the language in a real-life situation
- ✦ Describes international standards of performance at six different levels (from a basic to a proficient user)
- ✦ Describes five skills – listening, reading, spoken production, spoken interaction and writing

## THE LEVELS OF CEFR

CEFR defines six international standards of performance. These levels outline what a student can do with the language in real-life situations.

Basic User	A1	Discover stage; simple interaction about self and immediate environment
	A2	Communicates in simple and routine tasks; uses most common polite phrases and information exchanges
Independent User	B1	Can maintain interaction; discussion and opinions; can deal with spontaneous situations that arise
	B2	Construct arguments and defend a position; explain viewpoint and negotiate; self-correcting; fluency and spontaneity
Proficient User	C1	Independent, fluent, spontaneous; extensive vocabulary; clear, well-structured discourse without hesitation
	C2	Precise; fluent, sophisticated use in advance-level and academic situations

*“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”  
Philippians 4:13*

? Did you know? Canada is committed to the goal of promoting bilingualism in a society that is increasingly more mobile and diverse.

**USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS**

- ★ [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)
- ★ [www.ciep.fr](http://www.ciep.fr)
- ★ [www.deniscousineau.pbworks.com](http://www.deniscousineau.pbworks.com)
- ★ [www.mmecarr.ca](http://www.mmecarr.ca)
- ★ [www.caslt.org](http://www.caslt.org)
- ★ [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca)

? Did you know? At the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, the CEFR approach to teaching French will become increasingly more evident starting in Grade 1. That means that your child will benefit from at least eight years of hands-on and effective French language learning.



# The New French Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)



For more information about CEFR, please contact our board's French as a Second Language Consultant at 705.722.3555 ext., 278.

## Learning French at the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board

