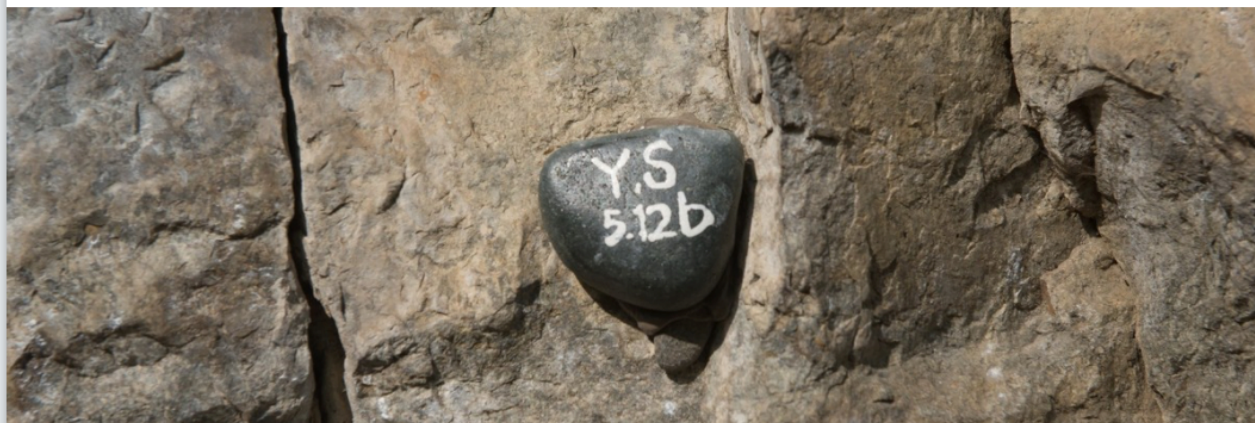


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Grades and Grade Conversions

Grade systems are almost as old as climbing itself. Assigning a difficulty to a climb seems to be at least as important as describing it with other characteristic parameters such as length, protection or rock type. Grade systems initially developed in confined geographical areas, making the comparison of climbs somewhat easier, developed over time and were and are constantly extended as climbers manage to ascent harder and harder climbs. For example the now called UIAA grade system had a top grade of VI (six), meaning that everything harder than VI was simply assigned a VI until it was finally opened up in the late 1970s.

Even today, many grade systems are confined to certain geographical areas, sometimes climbing areas (e.g. Saxon, Fontainebleau), mostly countries (South African, Brazilian, French, etc.) or even continents (Ewbanks, YDS) and sometimes they got exported to and established themselves in different areas making some grade systems more ubiquitous than others.

Most grade systems are specific to a certain style. There are grade systems for bouldering, grade systems for sport climbing, grade systems for aid climbing and so on but even grade systems for the same style don't always translate well between each other. The reason being that the width of grades on a specific scale are not comparable or that grades are not linear across the whole scale.

For you as a climber this means, that it might be sometimes quite tricky to accurately convert a specific grade from one grade system into another one; for us as a global information and services provider it is a challenge to display all grade information in the context the user wants to see it and use it accurately for rating and ranking purposes.

Together with the rock climbing community theCrag has developed and continues to develop a comprehensive and intuitive coverage of grades in the system. As such we welcome feedback on grades and new developments in that area. However, for this to be useful to the community as a whole we encourage you to record suggestions and criticism onto our [Issues list](#) so that the whole community can constructively contribute.

Grade conversions

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theCrag automatically converts grades between different grade systems according to the tables below. theCrag does so by using an open ended and fine-grained internal grade conversion system with more than 500 grade levels allowing to reflect the subtleties of most known grade systems and their conversion from and into each other.

If you have an account on theCrag, you can set your preferred grade system for major gear styles on your profile page, allowing you to look at any climbing area worldwide in the grade system you are most used to. You may also simply convert a single grade using the interactive grade converter here below.

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INTERACTIVE GRADE CONVERTER

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Grade context: US: American (YDS ...)

Gear style: Trad

Your input:

Convert to grading system: --

Converted grade:

TRAD AND SPORT GRADE SYSTEMS

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Band	EWbanks	YDS	NCCS Scale	French	British Tech.	UIAA	South African	Old South African	Saxon	Finnish	Norwegian	Polish	Brazil Technical	Swedish	Russian
Beginner	1		F4	1a	1a	1-	1	A1		1-	1-	I-	I	1-	1A
	2			1a+	1b	1	2	A2		1	1	I	I	1	
	3			1b+	1c	1+	3	B1		1+	1+	1+		1+	1B
	4	5.0		1c	2a	2-	4	B2		2-	2-	II-	Isup	2-	
	5	5.1		2a	2b	2	5	C1		2	2	II		2	2A
	6			2b	2c	2+	6	C2	II	2+	2+	II+	II	2+	
	7	5.2	F5	2c	3-	3-	7	D1		3-	3-	III-		3-	2B
	8			2c+	3a	3	8	D2		3	3	III			
	9	5.3		3a	3b	3+	9	D3		3+	3+	III+	IIsup	3+	3A
	10	5.4		3b	3c	4-	10	E1	III	4-	4-	IV-		4-	
	11			3c	4a	4	11	E2		4	4	IV	III	4	3B
	12	5.5		3c+			12	F1							
Intermediate	13	5.6	F6	4a		4+	13	F2	IV	4+	4+	IV+	IIIsup	4+	
				4a+	4b		14		V	5-	5-	V-		5-	4A
	14	5.7		4b											
			F7	4c		5	15	F3	VI	5	5	V	IV	5	
	15			4c+			16								
		5.8		5a	4c	5+	16								
	16		F8	5a+		6-	17	G1	VIIa	5+	5+	V+	IVsup	5+	
		5.9		5b			17		VIIb			VI-			4B
Expert	17			5b+		6	18								
			F9	5c	5a		18	G2	VIIc	6-	6-	VI	V	6-	
	18	5.10a		6a		6+	19								
				6a+			20	G3	VIIIa			VI+	Vsup	6	
	19	5.10b	F10	6a	5b	7-	20			6	6	VI.1	VI		5A
		5.10c		6b			21		VIIIb			VI.1+	VIsup	6+	
	20	5.10d	F11	6b+		7	22	H1	VIIIc	6+	6+	VI.2	VIIa		
	21	5.11a		6c	5c	7+	23		IXa	7-	7-	VI.2+	VIIb	7-	
Expert	22	5.11b	F12	6c		8-	24	H2	IXb	7	7	VI.3	VIIc		5B
		5.11c	F13	6c+		8	25		IXc	7+	7+	VI.3+	VIIIa	7+	
	23	5.11d		7a	6a		26	H3							
		5.12a	F14	7a+		8+	27		Xa	8-	8-	VI.4	VIIIb		6A
	24	5.12b		7b	6b	9-	28	I1	Xb	8	8	VI.4+	VIIIc	8-	
		5.12c	F15	7b+		9	29		Xc	8+	8+	VI.5	IXa	8	
	25	5.12d		7c		9+	30	I2		9	9	VI.5+	IXb	8+	
	26	5.13a	F16	7c+	6c		31		XIa	9+	9-	VI.6	Xa	9-	6B
Expert	27	5.13b		8a		10-	32	I3	XIb	10-	10-				
		5.13c		8a+		10	33		XIc	10	10	VI.6+	Xb	9	
	28	5.13d		8b	7a	10+	34	J1							
		5.14a		8b+			35	J2	XIIa	11-	11-	VI.7	XIa	9+	
	29	5.14b		8c	7b		36	J3	XIIb	11	10-	VI.7+	XIb	10-	7A
		5.14c		8c+			37								
	30	5.14d		9a						10	10		XIc		

Elite	36	5.15a		9a+	7c	11+	38			XIIC	11+		VI.8		10	
	37	5.15b		9b		12-	39				12-	10+	VI.8+	XIIa	10+	
	38	5.15c		9b+		12	40				12	11-	VI.9	XIIc	11-	7B
	39	5.15d		9c		12+					12+	11	VI.9+		11	
												11+			11+	
												12-			12-	
												12			12	
												12+			12+	

BOULDERING GRADE SYSTEMS

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Band	V-Scale	B-Scale	S-Scale	P-Scale	Joshua Tree Scale	Fontainebleau	Annot B-Scale	Font Traverse
Beginner	VB-					1A		1A
						1A+		1A+
						1B		1B
						1B+		1B+
						1C		1C
						1C+		1C+
	VB					2A		2A
						2A+		2A+
						2B		2B
						2B+		2B+
Intermediate	VB+					2C		2C
						2C+		2C+
						3A		3A
						3A+		3A+
						3B		3B
						3B+		3B+
						3C		3C
						3C+		3C+
	V0-	B5.6		P0		4A		4A
							B1	4A+
Expert		B5.7		P1		4A+		4B
	V0	B5.8		P2		4B		4B+
								4C
		B5.9		P3		4B+		4C+
						4C	B2	5A
						4C+		5A+
								5B
								5B+
								5C
								5C+
Elite		B5.10				4C+		6A
	V1		S1-	P4	A-	5A	B3	6A+
			S1			5A+		6B
						5B		
	V2	B5.10+	S1+	P5	A	5B+	B4	6B+
			S2-			5C		6C
	V3		S2	P6	A+	5C+	B5	6C+
			S2+		B-	6A		7A
	V4		S3-	P7	B	6A+	B6	7A+
			S3			6B		
Elite						6B+		
	V5		S3+	P8	B+	6C	B7	7B
			S4-			6C+	B8	7B+
	V6		S4	P9	C-	7A	B9	7C
			S4+			7A+	B10	7C+
	V7		S5-	P10	C	7B	B11	8A
			S5		C+	7B+	B12	8A+
	V8		S6+	P11	D-	7C	B13	8B
			S6			7C+		8B+
	V9							
Elite	V10							
	V11		S6	P12	D	8A	B14	8C
			S6+			8A+		8C+
	V12	B3		P13	D+	8B	B15	9A
						8B+		9A+
	V13			P14		8C	B16	9B
								9B+
	V14			P15		8C+		9C
						9A		
Elite	V15			P16		9A+		
						9B		
	V16					9B+		
						9C		
	V17					9C+		

OTHER GRADE SYSTEMS

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and	id	id	id	lpine ice	/ater ice	lied ock/ice	errata chall	errata Num	errata rench	cottish /inter	technical
-----	----	----	----	-----------	-----------	-----------------	-----------------	------------	-----------------	-------------------	-----------

B	A	A	A	A	S	Z	R	E	S	E	E	S	S	P
Beginner	M0	A0	C0	A11- A11	W11- W11	M1	A	1	F	1				
	M1	A0+	C0+	A11+ A12-	W11+ W12-									
				A12 A12+	W12 W12+									
	M2	A1	C1	A12+ A13-	W12+ W13-	M2	C	3	AD	2				
	Intermediate	M3	A1+	C1+	A13 A13+	W13 W13+	M3	D	4	D	5			
A14 A14+					W14 W14+									
M4		A2	C2	A14- A14	W14- W14	M4								
M5		A2+	C2+	A14+ A14+	W14+ W14+	M5								
Experienced		M6	A3	C3	A15- A15	W15- W15	M6					E	5	TD
	A15+ A16-				W15+ W16-	M7		7						
	M7	A3+	C3+	A16- A16-	W16- W16-		M7							
	Expert	M8	A4	C4	A16 A16+	W16 W16+	M8	F	6	ED	8			
A17- A17					W17- W17	M9								
M9		A4+	C4+	A17+ A18- A18+	W17+ W18- W18+ W19- W19+ W19+ W10- W110 W110+ W111- W111+ W112- W112 W112+ W113- W113 W113+ W114- W114 W114+		M10							9
M11		A5+	C5+	A18+ A19- A19+	W18+ W19- W19+ W10- W110 W110+ W111- W111+ W112- W112 W112+ W113- W113 W113+ W114- W114 W114+	M11								
M12	A6	C6	A19+ A20- A20+	W19+ W20- W20+ W11- W11+ W11-<										

To learn more about grades, grade contexts, grade systems used per country, protection ratings, universal grade conversion and how theCrag assigns grades to routes and ascents, please refer to the article [Grades on theCrag](#).

Further reading

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