

C1

(ADVANCED)
LEVEL OF
ENGLISH

ALL the Grammar and
Vocabulary Points
You **MUST** Learn

C1 (ADVANCED) LEVEL OF ENGLISH: ALL THE GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY POINTS YOU MUST LEARN

This ebook outlines the necessary skills you will need to master to reach the C1 level in English. Use this ebook as a guide to help determine your current skill level and identify areas of weakness!

WHAT ARE THE CEFR LEVELS OF ENGLISH?



THE A1 ENGLISH LEVEL

The A1 level of English is the beginner level of language proficiency. Learners at this level can use simple phrases and expressions to communicate about everyday situations. They can introduce themselves, ask and answer basic questions and can have simple conversations.

THE A2 ENGLISH LEVEL



The A2 level of English relates to learners who can communicate in everyday situations using elementary vocabulary and commonly-used expressions. Learners at this level can understand sentences related to personal and family information, shopping, employment, etc. They can communicate in simple tasks and describe aspects of their past and immediate needs.



THE B1 ENGLISH LEVEL

The B1 level of English is for independent users who can understand clear texts about familiar topics in work, study or leisure contexts. Learners at this level can handle most situations when travelling to areas where English is used. They can produce simple and coherent texts about topics they know about or are personally interested in. They can describe experiences, events, wishes and aspirations, as well as explain plans and briefly justify opinions.

THE B2 ENGLISH LEVEL



The B2 level of English is for proficient users who can comprehend complex texts on concrete and abstract topics, including detailed discussions in their area of speciality. Learners at this level can interact fluently and spontaneously with native speakers without difficulty for either party. They can produce clear and detailed texts on a wide range of subjects and explain viewpoints on topical issues by providing the advantages and disadvantages of various options.



THE C1 ENGLISH LEVEL

The C1 level of English is for advanced users who can comprehend a wide range of demanding and lengthy texts, including implicit meanings. Learners at this level can express themselves fluently and spontaneously without hesitation. Learners can utilise language with versatility and effectiveness across various social, academic and professional settings. They can generate coherent, well-organised and elaborate texts on diverse topics, displaying accurate use of organisational structures, connectors and elements that ensure cohesion.

THE C2 ENGLISH LEVEL



The C2 level of English is the highest level of proficiency recognised by the CEFRL. At this level, learners can effortlessly comprehend anything they read or hear and are capable of summarising information and arguments from multiple sources, both spoken and written, and presenting them coherently and concisely. They can express themselves spontaneously, fluently and precisely, even in complex situations where finer shades of meaning must be discerned.

C1 ENGLISH QUICK CHECKLIST

<u>Grammar Topics</u>	✗	✓
Proficiency using the <u>past</u> , <u>present</u> and <u>future</u> tenses and their advanced uses		
Comfortable with using <u>modal verbs</u> and some of their advanced structures		
Able to use <u>conditionals</u> , <u>mixed conditionals</u> and <u>higher-level variations</u>		
Mastery of the <u>passive voice</u> including the infinitive and '-ing' forms		
A strong understanding of <u>negative inversion</u> and how to use it effectively		
Correct usage of <u>hedging</u> and <u>boosting</u> in speaking and writing		
Can use and understand <u>phrasal verbs</u> and their multiple meanings in various contexts		
Able to form complex and varied sentence structures using <u>coordinating</u> , <u>correlative</u> and <u>subordinating conjunctions</u> and <u>connectors</u>		
Familiar with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-finite clauses • advanced comparative structures • advanced discourse markers • fixed expressions 		

<u>Vocabulary Topics</u>	✗	✓
Knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary topics (<i>approx. 8,000 words</i>)		
Understanding of <u>word families</u> including <u>roots</u> , <u>prefixes</u> and <u>suffixes</u>		
Familiar with <u>inclusive vocabulary</u> and the <u>evolution</u> of the English language		
A grasp on the different functions of the English language, like <u>play on words</u> , <u>double entendre</u> and <u>innuendos</u>		
Confident when presenting <u>arguments</u> and <u>debating</u>		
Able to recognise <u>passive-aggressive language</u>		

A BREAKDOWN OF C1 ENGLISH

The C1 level is fluency with a deep understanding of the nuances of the language.

You should be able to express yourself with phrases native speakers use and be able to do it naturally, which means saying things like:

I can't wait to put my own stamp on this place

instead of

I can't wait to redecorate.

C1 also demands a massively increased vocabulary: you should know around 8,000 words — that's twice as many as the 4,000 you need to know at B2, and you should be able to express yourself spontaneously without searching for words. You should also be able to understand subtle jokes in English at C1 level.

C1 is a wonderful level of English to reach. At this level, you should feel confident in almost any situation, and you should really enjoy speaking the language. These are two things that many of my students strive for. C1 is less about learning entirely new grammatical structures as you should already have learnt most of them at B2 and below; rather, it is about learning grammatical nuances, adding to your repertoire of phrases and building your instincts for English grammar.

This eBook will walk you through the grammar and vocabulary you need to know to achieve the C1 level.

GRAMMAR - MAIN POINTS TO CONSIDER

1 The Tenses

If you feel ready to study at C1 level in English, you should already have a strong foundation in the English tenses. However, a C1 course will provide you with revision of the **past**, **present** and **future** tenses, with a focus on their *advanced uses*.

For example, you should know how to use the Future Perfect Tense to make assumptions about the present, like

I'm sure my husband will have noticed that I used all the milk this morning.

If you're studying at C1, you should also learn how to talk about the future using some advanced structures, like '**to be set to**' and '**to be on the verge of**' and when it's appropriate to use these structures.

2 Modals

At the C1 level, you should be comfortable with using **modal verbs** and know some advanced structures for speculation and deduction. You'll be able to use modal verbs with adverbs that collocate with them, like

They could conceivably have driven all that way in one night, but it's unlikely.

You'll also know how to use structures such as '**the odds are**' and '**I dare say**'

I dare say I'll have to brush up on my grammar before I do a new course.

3 Conditionals

At C1 level, you should already be familiar with the **basic conditionals** and even with **mixed conditionals**.

When you're at C1, you should learn about a range of words and phrases to

replace 'if' and to take your conditionals to a more advanced level.

For example,

But for a wonderful trip to Spain when I was younger, I would never have decided to learn the language.

or

Given that I'd like to achieve C1 level in English, I'm going to have to study harder.

4 The Passive Voice

Again, if you've reached C1, you should be well-versed in how to use the **passive voice**.

At C1, there'll be a focus on using the passive infinitive and passive -ing forms, in sentences like

Lucy recalled having been taught about the passive voice at some point in the past.

And you'll need to learn about the subtle differences between phrases like,

There's nothing to do.

and

There's nothing to be done.

5 Negative Inversion

You also need to have a strong understanding of how to use **negative inversion** to add emphasis and variation to your writing and speaking.

Inversion is widely used in literary contexts, so understanding this structure can help you understand and analyse a wide range of texts more effectively, particularly those with complex or literary styles.

Never have I seen such a beautiful sunset.

Such was the commotion that I could barely hear myself think.

6 Hedging and Boosting

Those at a C1 level should be familiar with **hedging** and **boosting** when writing and speaking.

Hedging is a linguistic strategy that allows speakers to soften or downplay the force of their statements, often by using hedging verbs like ‘**to seem**’, the passive voice, and adverbs like ‘**presumably**’.

It seems like this might be a good solution.

Boosting, on the other hand, involves using language to increase the force or impact of a statement, often by using adverbs like ‘**undeniably**’ and strong verbs like ‘**to prove**’.

This has been proven to be the best solution to our problem.

7 Phrasal Verbs with Multiple Meanings

Another important aspect of achieving a C1 level of English is understanding the various meanings of a number of **phrasal verbs**.

Depending on the context, phrasal verbs can take on different meanings. To effectively communicate and understand advanced conversations, you will need proficiency in using phrasal verbs.

Here’s a quick example using the phrasal verb ‘**set up**’:

set up (a time for a meeting):

Let's set up a meeting for next week.

set up (people on a date):

My friend set me up with her cousin.

set up (the living room for a playdate):

I need to set up the living room for the kids.

8 Conjunctions and Connectors

Some of the most important grammatical tools C1 level students need to master are the use of **coordinating**, **correlative** and **subordinating conjunctions** and **connectors** because they enable you to form more complex and varied sentence structures, enhancing your ability to express ideas and arguments.

These tools also help to establish logical connections between ideas, making written and spoken communication more coherent, persuasive and fluid overall.

These should have been learnt at the B1/B2 level, but a demonstrated level of proficiency is necessary at the C1 level.

coordinating conjunctions:

She loves peanuts, but she's allergic to them.

correlative conjunctions:

Neither of us wanted to go to the concert, nor did we have the money to buy tickets.

subordinating conjunctions:

While I was walking my dog, I saw a beautiful sunset.

connectors:

He missed his flight; therefore, he had to stay at a hotel overnight.

There are many more structures, words and phrases you should know at C1 level, like how to use **non-finite clauses**, **advanced comparative structures**, like, "*It was so great a film that I had to see it twice*," and **advanced discourse markers** and **fixed expressions** that you can use in writing and speech.

VOCABULARY - KEY FOCUS POINTS

When it comes to vocabulary, you should be able to express yourself fluently and spontaneously on a wide range of topics and be able to understand complex written and spoken texts.

You'll need to know a **wide range of vocabulary** on the topics of your lifestyle and well-being, nutrition and how it affects you, housing and urban versus rural life, and how people's different personalities mean you gel with someone and not someone else.

At C1, you'll also have to be comfortable with language connected to work and business, including the hot-button topics of remote working, burnout and resignation, freelancing and changing careers.

1 Word Formation

Understanding **word families** is an important skill that helps expand your vocabulary through **roots**, **prefixes** and **suffixes**, which help deduce the meaning of unfamiliar words. You'll also need to use them correctly in context, as well as have the skill to recognise and use words in different forms, such as noun, verb, adjective or adverb.

For example:

- **decide** (verb)
- **decision** (noun) - **indecision** (negative noun)
- **decisive** (adjective) - **indecisive** (negative adjective)

2 Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is another important skill to develop for achieving a C1 level of English because it allows you to express ideas in your own words while maintaining the meaning and intent of the original text.

This skill is particularly valuable in academic and professional contexts, where accurately conveying information and avoiding plagiarism is essential.

Here is a very quick example of paraphrasing:

The company is experiencing financial difficulties

to

The company is struggling financially.

3 Inclusive and Evolving Language

Two commonly overlooked aspects of achieving higher levels of English are understanding **inclusive language** and how **language evolves**.

Inclusive language is the use of language that avoids gender, racial or other biases and promotes equality and respect for all. As language continues to evolve, learners need to be aware of how language can both include and exclude different groups of people.

At the C1 level, you should be able to effectively communicate with diverse audiences and contribute to a more equitable society by using inclusive language and recognising how language changes over time.

So that's things like saying **chairperson** instead of defaulting to **chairman** and using **they** as a **singular pronoun**.

4 Humour

Understanding the different functions of the English language, like **play on words**, **double entendre** and **innuendos**, is essential for achieving a C1 level of English fluency.

These language nuances add humour and depth to communication, allowing for more engaging and diversified expression.

Like in these sentences:

play on words:

Why do we tell actors to "break a leg"? Because every play has a cast.

double entendre:

I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows too high. She looked surprised.

innuendo:

I can't believe he's still working there after what happened.

At C1, you should also be confident when **presenting arguments** and **debating**, and you should be able to recognise **passive-aggressive language** in others.

Example:

Were you able to get the report finished? No? That's fine — I'll just do it myself.

To reach C1, you'll need to do extensive **reading** and **listening practice** with texts that contain real-life English and get familiar with understanding the language of both formal and informal texts.

And it's not just about receptive skills: you'll also need to hone your productive skills, so a C1 course involves lots of output, too.

If you master all of that, you'll be well on your way to being able to say that you've achieved C1 or an advanced level of English.

I cover all of that and a lot more in my new C1 Programme. Take a look through the curriculum on the next page. Here we dive deeper into grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

THE BEAUTIFUL BRITISH ENGLISH C1 PROGRAMME

CURRICULUM

Week	Type	Content
0	Introductions and Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Introduction to Course Community

MONTH 1

Week	Main Content	Content
1A	Life-style, Well-being, Self-improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening 1: A Big Decision Grammar 1: Introduction to Paraphrasing Reading 1: The Dark Side of Self-improvement Grammar 2: Compound Adjectives Vocabulary 1: Lifestyle
1B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronunciation 1: Tongue Twisters Conversation 1: Life Improvement
2A	Houses and Renting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading 2: We're Going on a House-hunt Grammar 3: Superlative Adjectives and Complex Comparative Clauses Listening 2: House of Horrors Grammar 4: Passive Voice Writing 1: Write Confident Emails Vocabulary 2: Housing and Rental Idioms
2B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronunciation 2: Talking Fast Conversation 2: Property
3A	Differences Between City and Rural Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening 3: All It's Cracked Up to Be? Grammar 5: Negative inversions Reading 3: Rural Flight or Fight? Grammar 6: Non-finite clauses Vocabulary 3: Rural vs City
3B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronunciation 3: Homographs Conversation 3: Rural Living vs City Living

Week	Main Content	Content
4A	Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 4: Wellness Schmellness • Grammar 7: Cleft Sentences • Listening 4: Junk Science • Grammar 8: Hedging and Boosting • Writing 2: Summarising Content • Vocabulary 4: Nutrition
4B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 4: Homophones • Conversation 4: Nutrition

MONTH 2

Week	Main Content	Content
5A	British Humour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 5: A Grand Misunderstanding • Grammar 9: Play on Words, Double Entendre, Innuendos • Listening 5: A Stand-up Comedy Show • Grammar 10: Phrasal Verbs with Multiple Meanings • Vocabulary 5: Humour
5B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 5: Sarcastic Tone of Voice and Deadpan • Conversation 5: Comedy
6A	Personalities and Fitting In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening 6 - A Motley Crew • Grammar 11 - Advanced modals and substitutes • Reading 6 - Why Can't We Be Friends? • Grammar 12 - Discourse Markers and Fixed Expressions • Writing 3 - Paraphrasing • Vocabulary 6 - Personalities and Fitting In
6B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 6: 4-syllable, 5-syllable Words • Conversation 6: Moving

Week	Main Content	Content
7A	Debating and Compromising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 7: New Developments • Grammar 13: Subjunctive • Listening 7: A Spirited Debate • Vocabulary 7: Presenting Arguments, Debating and Compromising • Grammar 14: Future tenses
7B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 7: Triphthongs and Consonant Clusters • Conversation 7: Handling Conflict
8A	Ecotourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening 8: Getting the Go-ahead • Grammar 15: Inclusive Language • Reading 8: French Escape • Grammar 16: Noun Patterns and Collocations • Writing 4: Informal Emails • Vocabulary 8: Ecotourism
8B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 8: UK Accents • Conversation 8: Tourism

MONTH 3

Week	Main Content	Content
9A	Remote Working vs Commuting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 9: A Stern Warning • Grammar 17: Conditionals • Listening 9: Modern Work • Grammar 18: Presentations • Vocabulary 9: Remote Work and Commuting
9B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 9: Speaking and Presenting • Conversation 9: Work Remotely or Commute?

Week	Main Content	Content
10A	Career Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening 10: Are You Anti-work? • Grammar 19: Polite Language and Softening • Reading 10: It's Over • Grammar 20: Word Families • Vocabulary 10: Careers • Writing 5: Letters of Resignation
10B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 10: Different International English Accents • Conversation 10: Employment
11A	Job Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 11: Scouting for Jobs • Grammar 21: Common Native Speaker Mistakes • Listening 11: Getting Hired • Grammar 22: Verbs as Nouns • Vocabulary 11: Job Search and Interviews
11B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 11: Stress Timing and Sentences • Conversation 11: AI
12A	Freelancing and Working for Yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening 12: Being Your Own Boss • Grammar 23: Phrases with 'It' • Reading 12: The Next Chapter • Grammar 24: Conjunctions • Vocabulary 12: Freelancing and Working for Yourself • Writing 6: Creative writing
12B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation 12: IPA Test and Review • Conversation 12: Set Up as a Freelancer

SO... WHAT NEXT?

The Beautiful British English C1 Programme is released on Monday 15th May 2023. You're already on the waiting list, and will find out before everyone else!



This is a 12-week programme that will take you from B2 to C1 level. It will also hugely benefit students who already consider themselves to be at the C1 level, as we cover so much more than C1 grammar. We overshoot to the C2 level, and focus heavily on native-level vocabulary, pronunciation, conversation, writing, and slang English. The programme is delivered in a story-based format so that you stay motivated each week!

You also have the option to join the VIP Feedback Pack, where you can get weekly writing and speaking homework tasks. My expert team of C1 teachers will give you feedback to help supercharge your progress.

If you have any questions, please email me:

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Lucy Bella Simkins