

## iTEP Ability Guide - Academic

Use this table to see at a glance how well an individual can use English to communicate “in the real world” at each of iTEP’s levels.

iTEP	CEFR	LISTENING	READING	WRITING	SPEAKING
6	<b>C2 MASTERY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehends overall meaning and virtually all details of lectures on diverse topics</li> <li>Understands English spoken in a variety of nonnative accents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehends virtually all aspects of a wide variety of academic material for non-specialists</li> <li>Reads at near-native speed</li> <li>Rarely requires use of dictionary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writes complex documents such as research reports using appropriate style and vocabulary</li> <li>Grammar and orthographic accuracy is at near-native level</li> <li>Expresses complex relationships between ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicates accurately and effectively on practically all academic and social topics in culturally appropriate ways</li> <li>Pronunciation is close to that of native speakers</li> </ul>
5.9 ↑ 5.0	<b>C1 ADVANCED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies attitude and purpose of speakers</li> <li>Grasps main ideas and the majority of supporting details from academic lectures</li> <li>Is challenged by complex social and cultural references</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands main ideas and most of the details of academic texts, journal articles, and abstracts</li> <li>Requires little extra reading time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary is strong in specialty</li> <li>Satisfies demands of most general academic tasks with occasional grammar and style mistakes</li> <li>Exhibits fairly good organization and development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary is strong in specialty</li> <li>Satisfies demands of most general academic tasks with occasional grammar and style mistakes</li> <li>Exhibits fairly good organization and development</li> </ul>
4.9 ↑ 4.0	<b>B2 UPPER INTERMEDIATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies main ideas and details in conversation</li> <li>Occasionally needs to ask for repetition or clarification</li> <li>Begins to determine the attitudes of speakers</li> <li>Understands main ideas from academic lectures, but misses significant details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizes contextual and syntactic clues to interpret meaning of complex sentences and new vocabulary</li> <li>Gathers most main ideas from textbooks and articles, but has an uneven grasp of details</li> <li>Misinterprets some abstract content and cultural references</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writes reasonably coherent essays on familiar topics, but with some grammatical weakness</li> <li>Does not have complete grasp of stylistic features</li> <li>Vocabulary frequently lacks precision and sophistication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins to express abstract concepts, especially on familiar topics</li> <li>Fluency is occasionally hampered by gaps in vocabulary and grammar</li> <li>Expresses viewpoints in fairly long stretches of discourse</li> <li>Sometimes is asked to repeat words or phrases</li> </ul>
3.9 ↑ 3.5	<b>B1 INTERMEDIATE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grasps the general outline of topics discussed in an academic setting</li> <li>Unfamiliarity with complex structures and higher-level vocabulary leaves major gaps in understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited vocabulary impedes speed</li> <li>Grasps the gist of material on familiar subjects, and identifies some significant details</li> <li>Follows step-by-step instructions in exams, labs, and assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicates basic ideas, but with weak organizational structure and grammatical mistakes that sometimes hinder understanding</li> <li>Expresses him/herself with some circumlocution on topics such as family, hobbies, work, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages day-to-day communications with peers and instructors, marked by frequent grammar and vocabulary errors</li> <li>Pronunciation requires significant effort from listeners</li> </ul>
3.4 ↑ 2.5	<b>A2 ELEMENTARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains comprehension during conversations on familiar topics</li> <li>Relies heavily on non-verbal cues and repetition</li> <li>Understands very basic exchanges when spoken slowly using simple vocabulary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major vocabulary gaps lead to frequent inaccurate or incomplete comprehension, and slow pace</li> <li>Understands simplified material</li> <li>Begins to determine the meaning of words by familiar surrounding context</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited vocabulary results in repetitive style and simple sentences</li> <li>Considerable effort required by the reader to identify intended meaning</li> <li>Uses only basic vocabulary and simple grammatical structures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generates simple questions, greetings, expressions of needs, and preferences</li> <li>Pronunciation requires significant effort from listeners</li> <li>Pronunciation often obscures meaning</li> </ul>
2.4 ↑ 0.1	<b>A1 BEGINNER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands simple greetings, statements, and questions when spoken with extra clarity</li> <li>Follows simple familiar instructions</li> <li>Frequently requires repetition for comprehension</li> <li>Understands a few isolated words or phrases spoken slowly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehends only highly simplified phrases or sentences</li> <li>Recognizes familiar cohesive devices and basic pronouns</li> <li>Demonstrates understanding of a few simple grammatical and lexical structures</li> <li>Recognizes the alphabet and isolated words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writes only short, simple sentences, often characterized by errors that obscure meaning</li> <li>Provides personal details with correct spelling and can copy familiar words and phrases</li> <li>Produces isolated words and phrases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capable of short simple presentation on familiar topic</li> <li>Responds to simple statements or questions</li> <li>Speech is marked with non-native stress and intonation patterns</li> <li>Communication is understood for short utterances</li> <li>Pauses, false starts, and reformulation are common</li> <li>Communicates with single words and short phrases at “survival level”</li> <li>Intense listener effort required</li> <li>Produces a few isolated words and phrases</li> <li>Pronunciation is mostly unintelligible</li> </ul>