Demystifying B1 in the UK with LanguageCert SELT.
What does B1 mean?

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, often referred to as CEFR, provides a way to determine your linguistic ability in any language. It's a guide to language levels regardless of whether you’re learning German, Spanish, Italian or English.

The six levels within the CEFR are A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2 (A or Basic User, B or Independent User and C or Proficient User).

Level B1 corresponds to those who have the necessary fluency to communicate without effort with native speakers on familiar topics. People at B1 have practical language skills for everyday use when speaking with and listening to others. This level is known as “intermediate” as users have mastered the basics, but they are still not able to work or study exclusively in English.

Speakers can enter a conversation, express their views, follow a discussion as long as the interlocutor speaks clearly and uses standard English. Speakers can handle situations of everyday life, even unprepared, like changing travel arrangements or complaining in a café. At B1, people will sometimes have to ask for repetition of particular words or phrases in order to understand. They will sometimes need to pause and rephrase when expressing more complex thoughts.
What can I do at B1?

LanguageCert International ESOL SELT B1 tests your ability to take part in a range of interactions, allowing you to understand and be understood when talking to English speakers.

I can understand simple texts on familiar topics; at work I can read simple reports and write simple e-mails on subjects familiar to me.

I can identify the main points in a newspaper article on a familiar subject.

I can understand the main points of a conversation when talking about everyday subjects like family, work, school or leisure-related topics.

I can understand the main points of TV or radio programmes if I know the topic and the speaker speaks slowly and clearly.

I can guess the meaning of unknown words in context.

I can ask for something without knowing the exact words.

I can give my opinion on familiar topics when talking with others.

I can talk about how I feel.

I can describe personal experiences, hopes and ambitions and talk about my future plans.

I can ask and understand questions and respond appropriately.

I can create simple texts like personal letters describing experiences, feelings and events in detail.

I can describe in writing the plot of a film or a book and express my opinion about it.