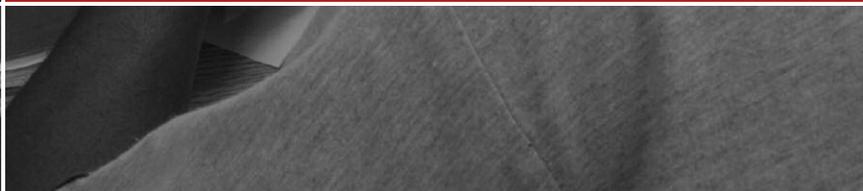


# For Learners



## Canadian Language Benchmarks for living and working in Canada



Setting language learning goals for living and working in Canada.



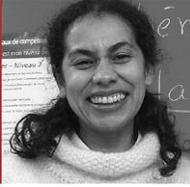
Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks

For use in lower CLB level programs.  
e-version ISBN 978-1-897100-52-3

# For Learners

CLB  
Levels 1-4

## Setting language learning goals for living and working in Canada.



*My name is Mina. I'm a beginner. I can answer questions about my name, address and phone number. I want to get a job. I need more English.*

*I am Jose. I'm a low intermediate. I can make a doctor's appointment by myself. I can fill in an application form. I need more English. My son is not doing well in school. I want to talk to his teacher.*



*My name is Tony. I speak English well, but I have difficulty writing in English. I have a job as a security guard at night. The work is not a problem. I have difficulty filling in the report forms.*



## What is your level of English?

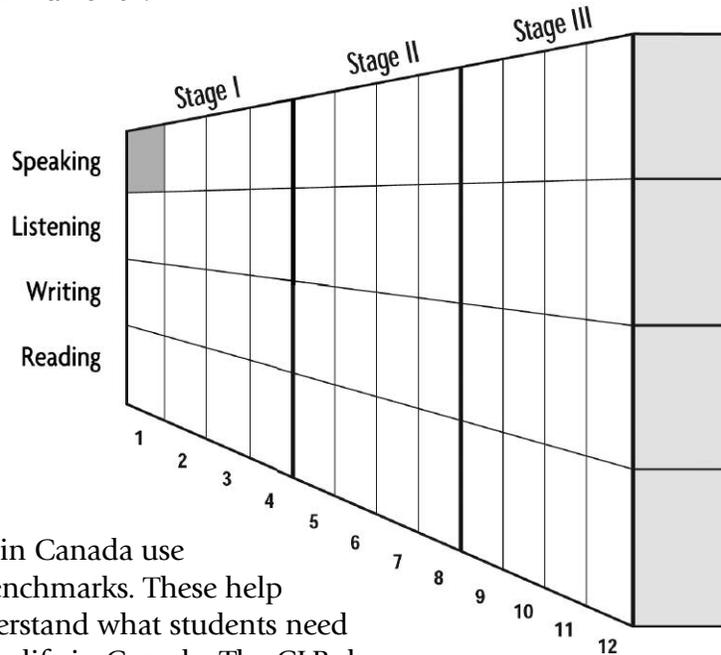
- What are some things you can do in English?
  - When you go to an English as a Second Language (ESL) class, is it the right class for you?
  - Is it too easy or too difficult?
  - Are you learning how to do new things in English?
- 
- What are **your** goals for living and working in Canada?
  - What things do you need to do in English that will help you now?
  - Do you need to find phone numbers in the phone book?
  - Do you need to fill in application forms?
- 
- What things do you need to do in English that will help you **in the future**?
  - Do you want to help your children in school? Do you need to talk to the school principal or teacher? Do you need to read the school newsletter and notes from the teacher?
  - Do you want to get a job in an office? Do you need to write memos and letters?
  - Do you want to go to high school or college? Do you need to read textbooks and write essays?



## What are the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)?

The Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) is the standard used everywhere in Canada to teach and to test language learning in adult ESL programs. There are twelve (12) benchmarks for:

- Listening CLB 1 – 12
- Speaking CLB 1 – 12
- Reading CLB 1 – 12
- Writing CLB 1 – 12



Many adult ESL programs in Canada use the Canadian Language Benchmarks. These help students and teachers understand what students need to do with English for daily life in Canada. The CLB do not list grammar or vocabulary. They list tasks for everyday, real English use. A task is something you can do in English.

## These are some of the tasks that people at different CLB levels can do:



*I can read traffic signs and symbols.* (This is Reading CLB 1.)



*I can make an appointment with a doctor.* (This is Speaking CLB 4.)



*I can follow directions to a new address.* (This is Listening CLB 3.)



**What about you? Can you take a phone message?**  
(This is Listening CLB 5.)





## How are the Canadian Language Benchmarks used?

The CLB helps you understand your language level in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Remember, you may have different levels for speaking, listening, reading and writing.

### *I can:*

- understand many simple questions. (CLB Listening 4)
- follow simple oral instructions. (CLB Listening 4)

### *My goal is to be able to:*

- understand a simple, predictable phone message. (CLB Listening 5)

## How are the Canadian Language Benchmarks used in an ESL class?

Your ESL teacher can help you plan your goals for learning English. You will talk about why you want to learn English. You may talk about where you need to use English, or if you need English to get a job in Canada.

## You can see CLB checklists for CLB levels 1-4 with this book.

CLB checklists for CLB levels 5-10 are available at [www.language.ca](http://www.language.ca).

### *I can:*

- say a few simple sentences about familiar, everyday topics. (CLB Speaking 3)
- give basic information about familiar subjects. (CLB Speaking 3)

### *My goals are to be able to:*

- ask and answer many simple questions. (CLB Speaking 4)
- use the phone for a very short conversation. (CLB Speaking 4)

## *With these skills, I will be better able to speak with my son's teachers and other people in the community.*

The CLB helps the assessor identify your language learning needs and find the right ESL class.

The CLB helps your teacher to know if you have the level of English needed to do the job.

## The CLB has “Can Do” checklists for each CLB level.

Your teacher may also give you CLB “Can Do” checklists. They list many of the tasks you need to be able to do to complete each CLB level. You can look for the tasks you need to match your goals. You and your teacher can mark all the things you can do as you practise them in your class. You should also try to practise these tasks outside the classroom. The CLB checklists with this information book include many useful tasks that you can learn. Look at them and see how many you can do already.

## There are many different tasks at each level.

For example, **Reading CLB 2** includes reading a bill, a label, and step-by-step instructions.

### **You need to read a bill for:**

- the grocery store,
- the telephone bill, or
- repairs to your home.

### **Reading a label is useful for:**

- cooking,
- taking medicine, or
- washing clothes.

These tasks can be practised in different situations until you are confident using them. As your English skills increase, you can move through the CLB levels.

## The CLB helps you plan for the future as you learn English.

You can think about a goal you have for your life in Canada. For example:



*I want to speak with my child's teacher.*

To speak with a child's teacher, these are some of the speaking tasks Jose will need to do:

- To know a lot of common, everyday vocabulary and some idioms.
- To use formal and casual language.
- To ask for clarification when he doesn't understand.

These are some of the listening tasks he will need to do:

- To understand conversations if people speak slowly.
- To follow the general idea if the subject is personally relevant.
- To catch some inferred meanings in advice, offers, compliments and suggestions.

These are all CLB level 5 tasks.

## The CLB helps you to plan for study or work in the future.

For example, "I want to get a job in Canada. I will need to work with other people in an English-speaking workplace." To work in an English-speaking workplace, these are some of the tasks you will need to do:

### Speaking Tasks

- To participate in small group discussions and ask for clarification.
- To provide accurate and detailed information.
- To explain a process or sequence of events.
- To use eye contact, tone of voice and volume familiar to Canadians.
- To change my style of speaking for different situations and people.

### Listening Tasks

- To listen to a short instructional talk and remember 7-10 points.
- To understand short sets of instructions or directions and follow the sequence of the steps even if they are not in step-by-step form.

### Reading Tasks

- To scan and extended chart or schedule for specific information.
- To compare information from different texts.

These are all CLB level 6 tasks.

To be a nurse in Canada you need **Speaking CLB 8, Listening CLB 9, Reading CLB 8 and Writing CLB 7.**

Students who are **CLB 8 or CLB 9** usually have enough English to begin a college or university program.



### Writing Tasks

- To write a short letter, note or email using appropriate language and layout.
- To fill out a longer application form with 20-30 items.

To find out more about the CLB levels for nurses visit this website:

[www.CELBAN.org](http://www.CELBAN.org)

## Do you know your Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)?



*I'm Benchmark 1.*



*I'm Benchmark 4 in Listening and Benchmark 3 in Speaking.*



*I'm Benchmark 4 and I want to improve to Benchmark 6 to do better in my job.*

It is common for ESL students to have **different CLB levels** in listening, speaking, reading and writing. An ESL student at CLB 1 has little or no English. A person at CLB 11 or CLB 12 in speaking can speak English like a native speaker.

CLB assessment centres and adult English as a Second Language (ESL) schools can assess your level of English now. After the assessment, you will receive a Canadian Language Benchmarks report. This information will help you to find a class that is best for you. A CLB report goes with you if you change schools or move to a new city.

Your language assessment report may look like this:

Name: Jana Cho    Date: 2006/01/19  
Listening: CLB 4    Speaking: CLB 3    Reading: CLB 4    Writing: CLB 2

### Are you looking for a CLB Assessment Centre?

Many immigrant service organizations can help you find a CLB assessment centre near you. You can also look on the internet at [www.language.ca](http://www.language.ca) and click on "For Language Learners" then click on "CLB Assessment Centres". Choose the province you live in, then look under the closest city. You need to make an appointment for the CLB assessment, and you may need to wait a few weeks before taking the test.

### Are you looking for an ESL Class?

A CLB assessment centre or immigrant service organization can help you find an ESL class. Then you can take your CLB assessment report to the school to register for an ESL class.

CLB Assessment Centres are called **LINC** Assessment Centres in some provinces. **LINC** means Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada.