

Completing the *English Vocabulary Profile*: insights from the C levels

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

English Profile is a collaborative project between:



Content of this talk

- Introducing the six-level *English Vocabulary Profile*
- Functionality of the interactive resource
- Scope of the C levels
- Phrases in the *English Vocabulary Profile*
- Idioms in the *English Vocabulary Profile*
- Online availability of the resource

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

English Profile is...

A long-term collaborative research programme aiming to:

- understand what the CEFR actually means for English
- investigate what learner English is really like
- **develop reference descriptions for each CEFR level**

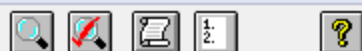
English Vocabulary Profile is one strand of this research

Corpus-informed research

English Profile projects are using electronic corpora to find out what learners CAN do. A corpus...

- provides **real language** data
- highlights what is **frequent**
- clearly shows **typical patterns**: structures, collocations, phrases, phrasal verbs, idioms
- captures change over time, as a corpus is constantly **updated**

English Profile is a collaborative project between:



1965900; Certificate in Advanced English; Czech Republic; C1 EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL PROFICIENCY; 2006; Czech; Pass
CAE_LNR; Learner; CAE; Czech

But out of the blue, now I am a brought up person, I have all forg
2 Dear Kim, Your letter was a wonderful surprise coming out of the blue like that.
Think about that ... Nothing comes out of the blue!
Of course a solution should not be expected out of the blue.
I was absorbed in my thoughts when out of the blue, numerous objects started coming into my head
One morning, completely out of the blue, her husband called and told her he was coming
As this offer came out of the blue, I did not have any other options than to go t
Then everything happend out of the blue, we felt someones hand pulling us out of the w
Everything started while Alice was walking home when out of the blue a strange creature appeared.
We see on TV so called expert nutritionists that appear out of the blue and insist in their having found the only way
And than he changed out of the blue.
st class football match or a thrilling book do not come out of the blue.
rd at which point all your superiors trust you and then out of the blue you make a big mistake, if you try to over com
As a king, Benjamin never got his ideas out of the blue and put them into action.
We can't invent our future out of the blue!
Dear Mary, Your letter was surprised , was coming out of the blue like this.
On that very day, however, Niall had told her out of the blue, after having had a drink too many in a pub: "
Suddenly, out of the blue someone was standing on the doorstep.
Until one day out of the blue, he had a brainwave.
The receptionist was not to be seen anywhere but out of the blue came a little girl dressed in a lovely white d
However, out of the blue, they discovered the method to turn a liquid i
But out of the blue she just did one thing: She took the framed ph
The word "mother-tongue" does not come out of the blue!
Edward appeared next to me like out of the blue.
But then - it appeared to be out of the blue - the young girl grew more and more unhappy.
But out of the blue Mark, her son, jumped from the bush and he loo
e tried to sleep together in same room and same bed but out of the blue we heard the creatur's voice and suddenly the
Completely out of the blue, I noticed one more light in the street.
Last year I got a letter, out of the blue, from an aunt I hardly knew.
Dear Paul, Your letter came to me out of the blue.
In case I have recieved something out of the blue.
Right out of the blue.
Kim, I was extremely happy when I received your letter out of the blue.
It was a bolt out of the blue.
Dear Kim, Your letter was a wonderful surprise coming out of the blue like that.
Then, out of the blue, a good looking young man caught the new comer

Cambridge Learner Corpus

- Joint development by CUP and Cambridge ESOL
- Over 45 million words
- Over 200,000 exam scripts
- Grows each year by 2-3 million words
- All CEFR levels
- 130 first languages
- 203 countries
- Over 20 million words coded for errors



English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Sources used for A1-B2 levels

- Cambridge Learner Corpus
- Spoken and written native speaker corpora
- Cambridge ESOL Vocabulary Lists (KET & PET)
- Breakthrough, Waystage, Threshold & Vantage syllabi
- Cambridge Readers wordlists
- Wordlists in current coursebooks & vocabulary books
- Hindmarsh English Lexicon

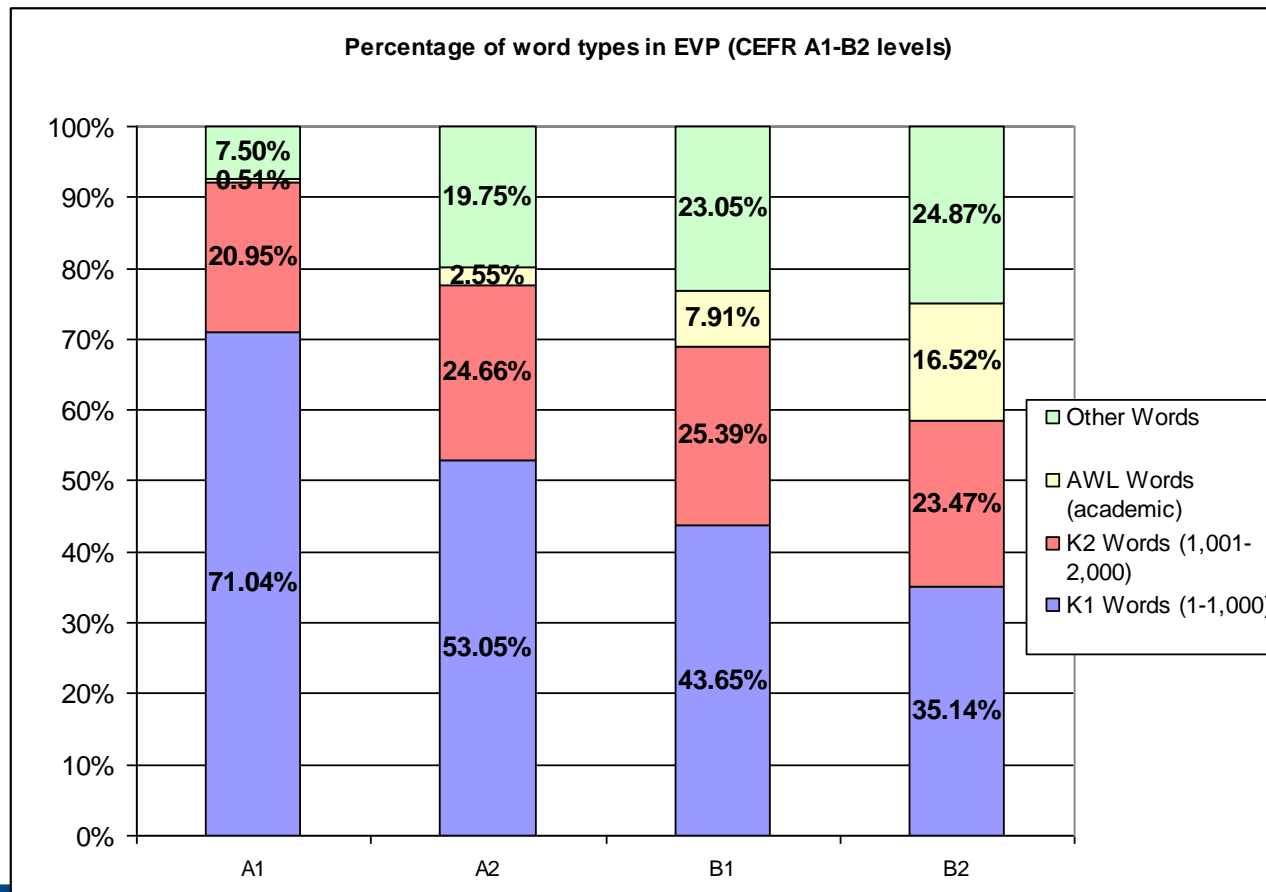
English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Compiling methods

- Assign levels: first A1, A2, B1, B2, now C1 and C2
- Not just by word but at **sense level** (= each meaning)
- Using data from Cambridge University Press dictionaries
- Taking account of native speaker corpus frequency
- Finding out what learners at each level CAN do
- Reflecting current classroom practice and materials
- British English and American English versions

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Vocabulary coverage at A1-B2



English Profile is a collaborative project between:

2010-2011 Validation process

The A1-B2 data has been validated by:

- researchers in Cambridge, Nottingham, Miami and Tokyo
- students tested on phrasal verbs in Tokyo, Bilbao and **Brno**
- CUP authors, editors and lexicographers
- Cambridge ESOL item writers and test developers
- teachers around the world, via Word of the Week feedback

Amendments and additions have been made as a result.

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Norton Phishing Protection on Identity Safe Log-ins

Google Search

day - Word informatio... Google Club VAIO | Home

English Vocabulary Profile

Preview version



British
English (D, J, K)

American
English (D, J, K)

Choose level:

- ☐ A1
- ☐ A1-A2
- ☐ A1-B1
- ☐ A1-B2
- ☐ A1-C1
- ☒ A1-C2
- ☐ A2 only
- ☐ B1 only
- ☐ B2 only
- ☐ C1 only
- ☐ C2 only

[Browse A-Z](#)

OR

Enter a word or phrase

day /deɪ/

Word family:

Nouns: day, midday

Adjectives: daily

Adverbs: daily

► **NOUN**

24 HOURS

A1 [C] a period of 24 hours

Dictionary examples:

Functionality of the resource

- Fast and powerful
- No space constraints - phrases are duplicated
- Can be updated to reflect change
- Useful tool for materials development
- Searchable in many different ways

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Google search bar with results for 'know'. Navigation icons (back, forward, home, stop) and search engine icons (Google, Bing, etc.) are visible. Norton security status is shown at the top.

Choose level:

- ☐ A1
- ☐ A1-A2
- ☐ A1-B1
- ☐ A1-B2
- ☐ A1-C1
- ☐ A1-C2
- ☐ A2 only
- ☐ B1 only
- ☐ B2 only
- ☐ C1 only
- ☐ C2 only

[Browse A-Z](#)

OR

Enter a word or phrase

know

ADVANCED SEARCH



☐ Hide culturally sensitive words

Search

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[Feedback](#)

Core results:

- know verb HAVE INFORMATION A1
- know verb ASK FOR INFORMATION A1
- know verb BE ABLE A2
- know verb BE CERTAIN A2
- let sb know A2
- you know B1
- know verb BE FAMILIAR WITH B1
- know verb UNDERSTAND A SUBJECT B1
- get to know sb/sth B1
- I know B1
- as you know B1
- as far as I know B2
- know better (than to do sth) B2
- I know B2
- you never know B2
- before you know it C1
- know sth inside out C1
- know what you are talking about C1
- know verb GUESS CORRECTLY C2
- know best C2
- know of sth/sb B2

Functionality of the resource

Advanced search criteria include:

words, phrases, phrasal verbs, idioms

grammar and usage

prefix and suffix

part of speech + topic

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Phishing Protection on Identity Safe Log-ins

Search

- Search results from th... x Google Club VAIO | Home

Page

Choose level:

- ☐ A1
- ☐ A1-A2
- ☐ A1-B1
- ☐ A1-B2
- ☐ A1-C1
- ☐ A1-C2
- ☐ A2 only
- ☐ B1 only
- ☐ B2 only
- ☐ C1 only
- ☐ C2 only

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OR

Enter a word or phrase

ADVANCED SEARCH



Category	--Any--
Part of speech	adjectives
Grammar	--Any--
Usage	--Any--
Topic	Describing things
Prefix	--Any--
Suffix	--Any--

Clear filters

Core results:

- damaged** adjective B1
- dark** adjective NOT PALE A1
- dated** adjective C2
- decent** adjective SATISFACTORY B2
- decorative** adjective B2
- deep** adjective TOP TO BOTTOM A2
- deep** adjective COLOUR B1
- deep** adjective SOUND B2
- defective** adjective C2
- delicate** adjective SOFT B2
- delicate** adjective EASY TO DAMAGE B2
- delicate** adjective ATTRACTIVE C2
- delicious** adjective B1
- delightful** adjective B2
- dense** adjective B2
- desperate** adjective SERIOUS C2
- different** adjective NOT SAME A1
- different** adjective SEPARATE B1
- dirty** adjective A2
- disastrous** adjective C1
- disgusting** adjective B1

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Google Search Club VAIO | Home

English Vocabulary Profile

Preview version



British
English (D, J, K)

American
English (D, J, K)

Choose level:

- ☐ A1
- ☐ A1-A2
- ☐ A1-B1
- ☐ A1-B2
- ☐ A1-C1
- ☐ A1-C2
- ☐ A2 only
- ☐ B1 only
- ☐ B2 only
- ☐ C1 only
- ☐ C2 only

Browse A-Z

OR

Enter a word or phrase

knowledge

ADVANCED SEARCH

knowledge

Word family:

Nouns: knowledge

Verbs: know

Adjectives: knowledgeable, known, unknown

Adverbs: knowingly

► **NOUN**

UNDERSTANDING

B1 [U or no plural] information and understanding that you have in your mind

Dictionary examples:

*Her knowledge **of** English grammar is very extensive.*

*He has **a** limited knowledge **of** French.*

*The details of the scandal are now **common** knowledge*

Scope of the C levels

- Additional senses of words already in A1-B2
- New words supported by corpus evidence
- Extension of many word families
- Lots of additional phrases and phrasal verbs
- Frequent idioms, where there is evidence

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Extra sources for C levels

- IELTS data in Cambridge Learner Corpus
- Academic English native speaker corpora
- Academic Word List (Coxhead, 2000)
- Academic Formulas List (Ellis & Simpson-Vlach, 2010)
- Phrasal expressions analysis (Martínez, 2010)

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

The Academic Word List

(Italicised form is the most common)

available

availability

unavailable

evident

evidenced

evidence

evidential

evidently

Academic Formulas List

the degree **to which**
in **more** detail
to determine **whether**
is determined **by**
to do **so**

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Phrases - Martínez research

Ron Martínez, University of Nottingham, took the A1-B2 pilot version and identified 'missing' or 'embedded' frequent phrases, using the British National Corpus

- Some new phrase entries created for A1-B2 levels
- Remaining phrases included at C1 and C2 levels

Phrases added to EVP

Missing phrase:

and all that 989 per 100m in BNC

primarily a spoken phrase, but has some Cambridge Learner Corpus evidence - included at B1

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Google Search

all - Word information from English Profile Wordl...

and all that

B1 used for saying that other similar things are included or that the whole of a situation is considered

Dictionary examples:

He told us about his school and all that.

We decided to stay in bed, with it being a holiday and all that.

Learner example:

I really enjoy shopping for clothes, but not only for clothes, also for things like earrings and all that!
Preliminary English Test; B1

in all

B2 used to show the total amount of something

Dictionary example:

Some of the children came, so there were 15 of us in all.

Learner example:

Secondly, even though most people like[d] [the] group RADIANT, they [only] played for 35 minutes in all.
First Certificate in English;

all of a sudden

B2 suddenly and unexpectedly

Dictionary example:

All of a sudden, he came bursting in through the door.

Phrases added to EVP

Embedded phrase: *a number of*
was within AMOUNT sense of *number* (B1), with
these dictionary examples:

The number of people killed in road accidents fell last month.

There were a number of soldiers present at the rally.

Now included as a separate phrase at B2.

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Google Search

number - Word information from English Profile ...

Page

AMOUNT

B1 [C or U] an amount

Dictionary examples:

*The number **of** people killed in road accidents fell last month.*

*A **small** number of children are educated at home.*

*A **large** number of people were contacted.*

Learner example:

We are a well-mixed class with equal numbers of boys and girls, all about 20 years old.

Preliminary

a number of sth

B2 several

Dictionary examples:

There were a number of journalists present at the public meeting.

*We've had **quite** a number of complaints about the programme.*

Learner example:

There are a number of errors in your article.

First Certificate

Phrases at the C levels

Inclusion based on frequency and learner evidence

- Many academic formulas and discourse markers

C1: needless to say, in the event of, in short

C2: along the lines of, in all likelihood

English Profile is a collaborative project between:

Phrases at the C levels

- Strong collocations

C1: high time C2: cast doubt/ suspicion on

- Meaning extension and figurative use

C1: the foot of sth, set foot in/on C2: at heart

- Idiomatic use

C1: go hand in hand C2: lose heart

Idioms in the English Vocabulary Profile

- Mainly a feature of the C levels
- Additional category search for A1-C2 version
- Inclusion dictated by NS frequency and CLC
- Not included: *raining cats and dogs*
- Included: *behind closed doors*

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Google Search

door - Search results fr... Connecting... Club VAIO | Home

Search Page

English Vocabulary Profile

Preview version



British
English (D, J, K)

American
English (D, J, K)

Choose level:

- ☐ A1
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- ☐ A1-B2
- ☐ A1-C1
- ☒ A1-C2
- ☐ A2 only
- ☐ B1 only
- ☐ B2 only
- ☐ C1 only
- ☐ C2 only

[Browse A-Z](#)

OR

Enter a word or phrase

Search results for A1-C2 (2 matches)

Core results:

- **door** noun **A1**
- **behind closed doors** **C2**

British English (D, J, K)
American English (D, J, K)

Choose level:

- ☐ A1
- ☐ A1-A2
- ☐ A1-B1
- ☐ A1-B2
- ☐ A1-C1
- ☒ A1-C2
- ☐ A2 only
- ☐ B1 only
- ☐ B2 only
- ☐ C1 only
- ☐ C2 only

[Browse A-Z](#)

OR

Enter a word or phrase

ADVANCED SEARCH

Category	idioms
Part of speech	--Any--
Grammar	--Any--
Usage	--Any--
Topic	--Any--
Prefix	--Any--
Suffix	--Any--

Search results for A1-C2 (21 matches)

Core results:

- in the dark C2
- call it a day C2
- make sb's day C2
- go/run deep C2
- out of your depth C2
- leave someone to their own devices C2
- behind closed doors C2
- down under C2
- down and out C2
- go downhill C2
- down the drain C2
- beyond your wildest dreams C2
- not/never in your wildest dreams C2
- a drop in the ocean C2
- be down in the dumps C2
- do the job C2
- make a bad/good, etc. job of sth C2
- the jury is (still) out C2
- keep your eyes open (for sb/sth) C2

Availability of EVP online

- Preview version of A1-C2 levels (letters DJK)
- Downloadable booklet explaining the whole programme
- Word of the Week - 90 entries archived with a new word appearing each week
- **A1-B2 levels available free on the EP website**
- A1-C2 levels expected Spring 2012

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