American Think Starter

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

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Part 1 The CEFR level of *American Think Starter*

American Think Starter covers level A1 of the CEFR. This table describes the general degree of skill achieved by learners at this level.

Skill	Learners will be able to:
Listening	• recognize familiar words and very basic phrases concerning themselves, their families, and their immediate concrete surroundings, when people speak slowly and clearly.
Reading	• understand familiar names, words, and very simple sentences, for example, on notices and posters.
Speaking	• interact in a simple way, provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase; • ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics; • use simple sentences to describe where they live and people they know.
Writing	• write short, simple postcards or emails; • fill in forms with personal details; • write simple isolated phrases and sentences.
Communicative language competence	• use a basic repertoire of words and phrases related to personal details and particular concrete situations; • show limited control of a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in a learned repertoire; • pronounce learned words and phrases in a way that can be understood by many expert speakers; • establish basic social contact by using simple everyday polite language.

Part 2 How the goals of the CEFR are realized in *American Think Starter*

LISTENING

At A1, learners are expected to be able to understand speech that is very simple.

OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION Can follow speech that is very slow and carefully articulated, with long pauses to assimilate meaning.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
15	23	33	41	51	59	69	77	87	95	105	113
18–19		36–37		54–55		72–73		90–91		108–109	

Welcome: 8, 9, 10

LISTENING TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS Can understand instructions addressed carefully and slowly to them and can follow short, simple directions.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
			41								

READING

At A1, learners can understand very short, simple texts a single phrase at a time, picking up familiar names, words, and basic phrases, and rereading as required.

READING CORRESPONDENCE

Can understand short, simple messages on postcards, emails, etc.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
	20–21						74–75				
	27						81				

READING FOR ORIENTATION

Can recognize familiar names, words, and very basic phrases on simple notices in the most common everyday situations.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
								88			

READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT

Can get an idea of the content of simpler informational material and short simple descriptions, especially if there is visual support.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
12–13	24	30–31	38–39	48–49	56–57	66–67	78	84–85	92–93	102–103	110–111
16	26–27	34	42	52	60	70	80–81	88	96	106	114
			44–45		62–63				98–99		116–117
			45		63				99		117

SPEAKING

OVERALL SPOKEN INTERACTION

At A1, learners can:

- interact in a simple way, but communication is totally dependent on repetition at a slower rate of speech, rephrasing, and repair.
- ask and answer simple questions, initiate and respond to simple statements in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics addressed carefully and slowly to them.

CONVERSATION

Can make an introduction and use basic greeting and leave-taking expressions.

Can ask how people are and react to news.

Can understand everyday expressions aimed at the satisfaction of simple needs of a concrete type, delivered directly to him/her in clear, slow, and repeated speech by a sympathetic speaker.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
16	21	31	38	55	57	67	75	84	93	103	111
19	25	37	39		63	69		85	97	107	
	27					73		86			
								91			

Welcome: 11

GOAL-ORIENTED COOPERATION (E.G. REPAIRING A CAR, DISCUSSING A DOCUMENT, ORGANIZING AN EVENT)

Can understand questions and instructions addressed carefully and slowly to them and can follow short, simple directions.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
			41			70			96		
			43								

TRANSACTIONS TO OBTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES

Can ask people for things and give people things.

Can handle numbers, quantities, cost, and time.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
			43					89			113

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Can follow short, simple directions.

Can ask and answer questions about themselves and other people, where they live, people they know, and things they have.

Can indicate time by such phrases as *next week*, *last Friday*, *in November*, *three o'clock*.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
12	20	30	38	51	58	68	79	86	94	105	112
14	22	32	40	52	59	69		89	95		113
15	23	33	41		61	70					115
19		35				71					

Welcome: 4, 5, 8, 11

SPEAKING

INTERVIEWING AND BEING INTERVIEWED Can reply in an interview to simple direct questions spoken very slowly and clearly in direct nonidiomatic speech about personal details.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
13	23			52	61	68	79				115
14											
19											

OVERALL SPOKEN PRODUCTION

At A1, learners can produce simple, mainly isolated, phrases about people and places.

SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE Can describe themselves, what they do and where they live.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
15		35	39	49	56	68	75	85	94	104	110
				50	60	71	77	87		107	
				51	61		81	89			
				53							

WRITING

OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION AND INTERACTION

At A1, learners can:

- use isolated phrases and sentences
- ask for or pass on personal details in written form.

OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION Can write simple isolated words and phrases.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
17	27	35	45	53	63	71	81	89	99	109	117

Welcome: 10

CORRESPONDENCE Can write a short simple postcard, email, etc.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
	27						81				

CREATIVE WRITING Can write simple phrases and sentences about themselves and imaginary people, where they live and what they do.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
17		35	45	53	63	71			99	109	117

COHERENCE Can link words or groups of words with very basic linear connectors like *and* or *then*.											
Unit 1	**Unit 2**	**Unit 3**	**Unit 4**	**Unit 5**	**Unit 6**	**Unit 7**	**Unit 8**	**Unit 9**	**Unit 10**	**Unit 11**	**Unit 12**
										109	

COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

VOCABULARY RANGE

Has a basic vocabulary repertoire of isolated words and phrases related to particular concrete situations.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
12	20	30	38	48	56	66	74	84	92	102	110
14	22	32	40	50	58	68	79	86	94	104	112
16	25	35	41	53	60	69	81	89	97	107	113
17	27	37	42	55	61	71		91	99	109	115
19			43		63	73					117
			45								

Welcome: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY

Shows limited control of a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in a learned repertoire.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
14	22	32	40	50	58	68	76	86	94	104	112
15	23	33	41	51	59	71	78	87	95	105	115
	25	34		52				89	97	107	

Welcome: 6, 8

PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL

Pronunciation of learned words and phrases can be understood by expert speakers used to dealing with speakers of their language group.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
120	120	120	120	120	120	121	121	121	121	121	121

SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROPRIATENESS

Can establish basic social contact by using the simplest everyday polite forms of greetings and farewells, introductions, saying *please*, *thank you*, *sorry*, etc.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	Unit 9	Unit 10	Unit 11	Unit 12
16		37		55		73		91			
19											

Welcome: 7, 11

Part 3 How each unit of *American Think Starter* relates to the CEFR

WELCOME UNIT

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	8 9 10
Speaking	CONVERSATION	11
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	4 5 8 11
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	10
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	6 8
	SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROPRIATENESS	7 11

UNIT 1

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	15 18–19
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	12–13 16
Speaking	CONVERSATION	16 19
	GOAL-ORIENTED COOPERATION (E.G. REPAIRING A CAR, DISCUSSING A DOCUMENT, ORGANIZING AN EVENT)	13
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	12 14 15 19
	INTERVIEWING AND BEING INTERVIEWED	13 14 19
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	15
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	17
	CREATIVE WRITING	17
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	12 14 16 17 19
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	14 15
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	120
	SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROPRIATENESS	16 19

UNIT 2

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	23
Reading	READING CORRESPONDENCE	20–21 27
	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	24 26–27
Speaking	CONVERSATION	21 25 27
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	20 22 23
	INTERVIEWING AND BEING INTERVIEWED	23
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	27
	CORRESPONDENCE	27
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	20 22 25 27
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	22 23 25
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	120

UNIT 3

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	33 36–37
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	30–31 34
Speaking	CONVERSATION	31 37
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	30 32 33 35
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	35
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	35
	CREATIVE WRITING	35
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	30 32 35 37
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	32 33 34
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	120
	SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROPRIATENESS	37

UNIT 4

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	41
	LISTENING TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS	41
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	38–39 42 44–45 45
Speaking	CONVERSATION	38 39
	GOAL-ORIENTED COOPERATION (E.G. REPAIRING A CAR, DISCUSSING A DOCUMENT, ORGANIZING AN EVENT)	41 43
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	38 40 41
	TRANSACTIONS TO OBTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES	43
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	39
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	45
	CREATIVE WRITING	45
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	38 40 41 42 43 45
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	40 41
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	120

UNIT 5

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	51 54–55
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	48–49 52
Speaking	CONVERSATION	55
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	51 52
	INTERVIEWING AND BEING INTERVIEWED	52
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	49 50 51 53
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	53
	CREATIVE WRITING	53
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	48 50 53 55
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	50 51 52
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	120
	SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROPRIATENESS	55

UNIT 6

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	59
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	56–57 60 62–63 63
Speaking	CONVERSATION	57 63
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	58 59 61
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	56 60 61
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	63
	CREATIVE WRITING	63
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	56 58 60 61 63
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	58 59
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	120

UNIT 7

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	69 72–73
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	66–67 70
Speaking	CONVERSATION	67 69 73
	GOAL-ORIENTED COOPERATION (E.G. REPAIRING A CAR, DISCUSSING A DOCUMENT, ORGANIZING AN EVENT)	70
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	68 69 70 71
	INTERVIEWING AND BEING INTERVIEWED	68
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	68 71
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	71
	CREATIVE WRITING	71
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	66 68 69 71 73
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	68 71
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	121
	SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROPRIATENESS	73

UNIT 8

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	77
Reading	READING CORRESPONDENCE	74–75 81
	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	78 80–81
Speaking	CONVERSATION	75
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	79
	INTERVIEWING AND BEING INTERVIEWED	79
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	75 77 81
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	81
	CORRESPONDENCE	81
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	74 78 79
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	76 78
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	121

UNIT 9

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	87 90–91
Reading	READING FOR ORIENTATION	88
	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	84–85 88
Speaking	CONVERSATION	84 85 86 91
	TRANSACTIONS TO OBTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES	89
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	86 89
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	85 87 89
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	89
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	84 86 89 91
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	86 87 89
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	121
	SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROPRIATENESS	91

UNIT 10

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	95
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	92–93 96 98–99 99
Speaking	CONVERSATION	93 97
	GOAL-ORIENTED COOPERATION (E.G. REPAIRING A CAR, DISCUSSING A DOCUMENT, ORGANIZING AN EVENT)	96
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	94 95
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	94
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	99
	CREATIVE WRITING	99
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	92 94 97 99
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	94 95 97
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	121

UNIT 11

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	105 108–109
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	102–103 106
Speaking	CONVERSATION	103 107
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	105
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	104 107
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	109
	CREATIVE WRITING	109
	COHERENCE	109
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	102 104 107 109
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	104 105 107
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	121

UNIT 12

Skill	Goal	Pages
Listening	OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION	113
Reading	READING FOR INFORMATION AND ARGUMENT	110–111 114 116–117 117
Speaking	CONVERSATION	111
	TRANSACTIONS TO OBTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES	113
	INFORMATION EXCHANGE	112 113 115
	INTERVIEWING AND BEING INTERVIEWED	115
	SUSTAINED MONOLOGUE: DESCRIBING EXPERIENCE	110 115
Writing	OVERALL WRITTEN PRODUCTION	117
	CREATIVE WRITING	117
Communicative language competence	VOCABULARY RANGE	110 112 113 115 117
	GRAMMATICAL ACCURACY	112 115
	PHONOLOGICAL CONTROL	121