

The Express Entry French Points Checklist

What French actually does to your CRS score, and the exact steps to use it, without needing to be fluent.

NCLC 7

The threshold in all 4 skills (~CEFR B2)

+25 to 50

Bonus CRS points available

~100+ pts

Lower cutoffs on French draws vs general draws

What French actually does to your score

Once you hold NCLC 7 (roughly CEFR B2) in all four skills, reading, writing, listening, and speaking, on an approved test, two things happen to your Express Entry profile:

- 1. You unlock a bilingual bonus.** NCLC 7+ French paired with CLB 4-or-below English (or no English test) adds 25 CRS points. Paired with CLB 5+ English in all four skills, it adds 50 points.
- 2. You become eligible for French-language category draws**, which have consistently run with meaningfully lower cutoffs than general draws. That gap has been the difference between an invitation and an indefinite wait for many candidates.

The one rule with no exceptions: all four skills need to hit NCLC 7. One skill scoring NCLC 6, even if the other three are higher, removes you from the French category pool entirely. There's no averaging.

Your checklist

- ☐ Confirm your current CRS profile: age, education, work experience, and English test result, so you know your starting point
- ☐ Find out your actual French level today, not a guess, a tested one
- ☐ Decide between TEF Canada and TCF Canada based on test-centre availability near you, not on which sounds easier, the NCLC conversion is equivalent either way
- ☐ Study toward NCLC 7 in all four skills specifically, not just conversational comfort
- ☐ Book your official exam 8-12 weeks before you plan to submit or update your Express Entry profile, test centres in high-demand cities fill up early
- ☐ Update your Express Entry profile the moment results arrive, your CRS recalculates instantly
- ☐ Keep an eye on draw activity, French-language draws have run roughly every 4 to 6 weeks recently

Find out where you actually stand

MapleRoute's free two-stage placement test tells you your real French level today, and exactly how long a genuine route to NCLC 7 / B2 would take from there.

themapleroute.com/placement-test.html

This checklist reflects Express Entry criteria as publicly published by IRCC at the time of writing. Immigration rules and CRS criteria can change. MapleRoute is a French-language programme, not an immigration consultancy or legal service, always confirm current rules directly at ircc.gc.ca or with a licensed immigration consultant before making decisions based on this document.