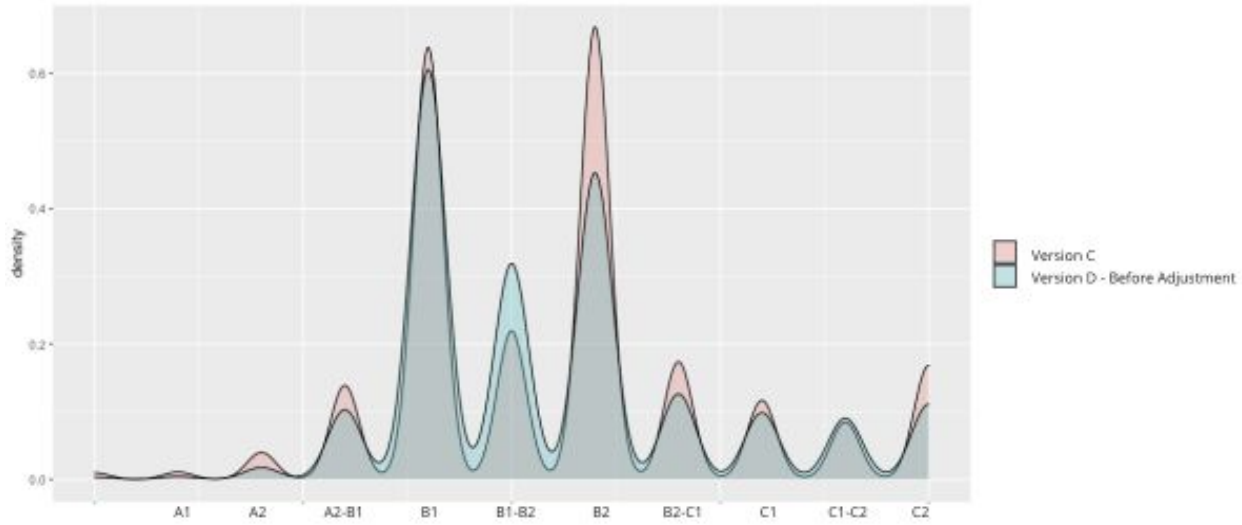# TrueNorth/CEFR Equivalencies - Update 11/20

Equivalence between TrueNorth scores and levels defined by the Common European Framework (CEFR) of language proficiency has been calculated using a substantial data set. These equivalencies are provided as one reference point in understanding an individual's language proficiency but additional considerations may be required depending on how test results will be used and the background of test takers. As significant changes to a test form occur, these equivalencies may also be updated.

In October 2020, Emmersion released a significant version update to its TrueNorth-English speaking test moving from Version C-a fixed form assessment to Version D a fully adaptive version. Validation of these two forms included significant efforts to ensure that the TrueNorth (0-10) scale would remain stable and consistent. Subsequent analyses have confirmed that the score scale has indeed remained stable.

However, with sufficient time after release, a substantial data set was collected. After some further detailed examination, there was evidence that the equivalency table between TrueNorth and CEFR may require an update. While the entire TN scale had remained stable, the distribution of score frequency near the transition point between B1-B2 and B2 appeared to have shifted slightly so that more test takers were now falling into the less well defined category of B1-B2. This change is highlighted in Figure 1.

As is evidenced in Figure 1, the frequency at which test takers were being classified as B1-B2 increased notably between the version change. As this was considering a significant and well representative data set, we determined that the original parameters defined within previous True North/CEFR equivalencies should be adjusted slightly. The scores corresponding to B1-B2 and B2 were adjusted so that the distribution of scores would remain much more closely consistent with Version C. The data team was able to model these changes in order to arrive at the distribution presented in Figure 2.
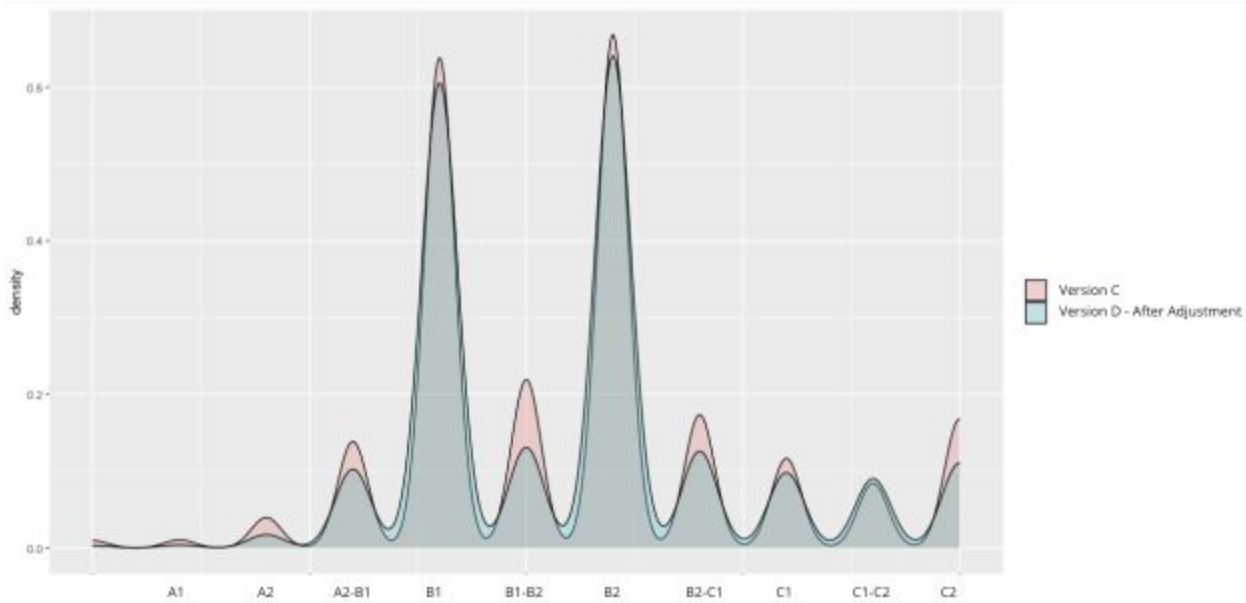
Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 2 presents that with the proposed change in the boundaries between B1-B2 the frequency levels of B1-B2 and B2 would be much more consistent with what had been consistently seen in Version C. This would enable clients a much more desirable transition from Version C to Version D.

This updated full equivalency table for TrueNorth English Speaking to CEFR is included for reference below. Again these equivalencies are provided as one reference point in understanding an individual's language proficiency. Additional considerations may be required depending on how test results will be used and the background of test takers.

English Speaking

TrueNorth	CEFR
< 2	A1
2.5 - 2.9	A1-A2
3.0 - 3.9	A2
4.0 - 4.9	A2-B1
5.0 - 6.4	B1
6.5 - 6.6	B1-B2
6.7 - 8.0	B2
8.1 - 8.4	B2-C1
8.5 - 9.0	C1
9.1 - 9.4	C1-C2
9.5 - 10	C2