

**Berlitz**<sup>®</sup>

# **French**

*Learner's Guide*

Berlitz Publishing/APA Publications GmbH & Co. Verlag KG  
Singapore Branch, Singapore

FRENCH  
LEARNER'S GUIDE

NO part of this text may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from Apa Publications.

Contacting the Editors

Every effort has been made to provide accurate information in this publication, but changes are inevitable. The publisher cannot be responsible for any resulting loss, inconvenience or injury. We would appreciate it if readers would call our attention to any errors or outdated information by contacting Berlitz Publishing, 95 Progress Street, Union, NJ 07083, USA. Fax: 1-908-206-1103, email: [comments@berlitzbooks.com](mailto:comments@berlitzbooks.com)

All Rights Reserved

© 2005 Berlitz Publishing/APA Publications GmbH & Co. Verlag KG, Singapore Branch, Singapore

Berlitz Trademark Reg. U.S. Patent Office and other countries.  
Marca Registrada. Used under license from Berlitz Investment Corporation

First Edition - Spring 2005

# Contents

---

- **Overview of the Course and Study Tips** ..... 1  
What's in it and how to get the most out of it
- **Grammar Section** ..... 3  
Handy reference with all the rules and lots of examples
- **French-English Glossary** ..... 20  
Look up the meaning of any word that appears in the program

## Overview of the Course and Study Tips

---

### **Who's It For?**

It's an all-audio course, designed for adult learners with no previous knowledge of French, but is also useful for people who have studied French in the past and want to brush up their skills.

### **What's the Approach?**

The course is divided into chapters, each dealing with a different theme. The focus is on spoken conversation, and the goal is to bring you to the point where you'll be able to function in a wide variety of everyday situations. You'll be working on speaking and understanding what's being said.

### **Listening to the Audio**

The presenters will guide you through the course. At times you'll be asked to simply listen, at other times to listen and repeat or answer.

The pronunciation segments provide tips on correct pronunciation. Remember to take advantage of the native French voices on the audio and try to imitate exactly what you hear. Here's a trick: everyone knows how to "put on" a French accent. When you're speaking French with the audio, do the same—try to impersonate a French person speaking the French words. You'll be amazed—it helps.

# How to Get the Most Out of the Course

- **Work with the recordings.**

In order to learn to speak you must first hear the language spoken. The recordings contain a wide range of authentic native speakers. Listen carefully and try to imitate exactly what you hear. The presenters will lead you through a series of activities. They will announce the purpose of each activity and tell you what you should do. Sometimes you'll be asked to simply listen, but you'll be asked to listen for some specific purpose. At other times you'll be asked to repeat what you hear, to answer questions or to assume the role of one of the characters in a conversation.

- **Speak out loud.**

Listening alone is not enough. You have to repeat what you hear, and then answer the questions – out loud. Learning to speak a language is as much a physical as an intellectual activity. Your vocal chords have to be trained to do things they aren't used to doing. Remember: you learn to speak by speaking!

- **Don't be afraid to make mistakes.**

Don't be afraid of sounding silly. To a French person it sounds a lot sillier if you don't speak the way they do. Try to throw yourself completely into the sounds and rhythm of the language.

- **The audio script keeps you on track.**

You may have forgotten what you've heard or you may want to see how a word is spelled or what it means. Don't worry. The audio script contains everything you hear including the translations. In addition, you can look up the meaning of any word that appears in the program in the the French-English Glossary plus additional useful vocabulary.

- **Keep an open mind.**

Don't expect your new language to work the same way as your own, and don't look for a neat set of rules. Accept the differences. Much of the charm of a foreign language is that it can permit us to see the world from a different perspective.

- **Review frequently.**

Go back over the material as many times as necessary until you feel comfortable with it. And it's always a good idea to go back over previously covered material.

- **Enjoy yourself!**

Treat this as an exciting adventure. The more you allow yourself to enjoy the program, the faster you'll improve your learning rate.

# Grammar Section

In this section, you'll find all the grammar from this course plus additional grammar explanations. It fills in details not explained to give you a more comprehensive overview of the fundamentals of French grammar. However, you don't need to refer to this section to begin or complete the units successfully.

## 1. Letters of the Alphabet

### The Alphabet and Pronunciation Guide

The letters of the alphabet are the same as in English. They are listed below, along with their pronunciation using normal French spelling conventions.

<b>A</b> . . . a	<b>H</b> . . . hache	<b>O</b> . . . o	<b>U</b> . . . u
<b>B</b> . . . bé	<b>I</b> . . . eeh	<b>P</b> . . . pé	<b>V</b> . . . vé
<b>C</b> . . . sé	<b>J</b> . . . ji	<b>Q</b> . . . ku	<b>W</b> . . . double vé
<b>D</b> . . . dé	<b>K</b> . . . ka	<b>R</b> . . . ère	<b>X</b> . . . iks
<b>E</b> . . . euh	<b>L</b> . . . elle	<b>S</b> . . . esse	<b>Y</b> . . . ee grec
<b>F</b> . . . effe	<b>M</b> . . . emme	<b>T</b> . . . té	<b>Z</b> . . . zède
<b>G</b> . . . jé	<b>N</b> . . . enne		

Keep in mind that all French speakers do not pronounce the language in the same way. Regional differences, history, economics, and other elements contribute to these differences. The same can be said, of course, about any language group.

When the letters are spelled out loud:

- **majuscule** is used to indicate upper case letters (A majuscule)
- **minuscule** is used to indicate lower case letters (a minuscule)

If a word has a double consonant or double vowel, use **deux** and then the consonant or vowel.

Capital letters are not used for:

- days of the week or months of the year: **vendredi, le 28 juin**
- nationalities and languages: **Je suis américain. Il parle français.**
- streets: **la rue de Rivoli; le boulevard St-Germain**
- titles: **monsieur Dubon; le docteur Arnaud**

Accents are used on some of the letters to modify the sounds:

à	é	ô	ç	ï
<b>accent grave</b>	<b>accent aigu</b>	<b>accent circonflexe</b>	<b>la cédille</b>	<b>tréma</b>

The acute and grave accents are used to modify e: **é, è**

The grave accent is sometimes used on a: **à**. It is also used sometimes to distinguish similarly spelled words. It does not influence pronunciation: **il a** (he has) **à** (to, towards); **ou** (or) **où** (where); **la** (the) **là** (there).

The circumflex is used on all vowels: **â, ê, ô, û, î**. In many cases, the circumflex replaces the **s** and has the effect of lengthening the vowel sound: **forêt, hôpital, Hôtel**.

The cedilla is used to indicate that a **c** is to be pronounced as an “s” and not a “k” before a, o, u: **garçon, leçon**.

The trema is used to separate the pronunciation of two adjoining vowels into separate syllables.

## Pronunciation Guide

### Vowels

Generally French vowel sounds are shorter than English vowels. As there are so many different pronunciations of each word in English, any pronunciation guide can only give approximate sounds. It is best to listen to the audio and the pronunciation segments of the chapters.

a . . . . . as in *cat* (madame; chat)  
e . . . . . as in *men* (restaurant) / as u in *hut* (le; ne)  
é . . . . . as ay in *May* (Les Champs Elysées; le café)  
è . . . . . as in *pear* (père; frère)  
ê . . . . . as in *met* (être; honnête)  
i . . . . . as in *police* (il; piscine)  
î . . . . . sounds similar (île; dîner)  
o . . . . . as in *hot* (olive; bonne)  
ô . . . . . as in *hotel* (hôtel; hôpital)  
u . . . . . a new sound. Say “ee” and purse your lips as if to say “oo”  
. . . . . without changing the position of your mouth (du; menu).  
au/eau . . . as “o” in *hotel*  
eu . . . . . sounds like the “i” in *sir* (heure; deux)  
ou . . . . . sounds like the “o” in *who* (vous; tout)  
oi . . . . . sounds “wa” as in *wam* (moi; trois)

### Consonants

If the last letter of a word is a consonant, it is not usually pronounced.

Exceptions: words ending in **-l** (**normal; total**)  
words ending in **-f** (**neuf; un œuf**)  
words ending in **-c** (**sac; Cognac**)

words ending in **-k** (**Patrick**)

words ending in **-r** (**bonjour**)

ç . . . . . as "s" in sat (ça; François)

ch . . . . . is pronounced like "sh" (château; chat)

gn . . . . . sounds "ny" (montagne; Avignon)

h . . . . . at the beginning of a word is not usually pronounced (hôtel; hôpital)

j . . . . . is like the "s" in pleasure (je; Jacques)

qu . . . . . is pronounced like the "k" in kick (question; quel)

r . . . . . in many parts of France "r" is pronounced at the back of the throat, like a gargling sound!

th . . . . . is pronounced "t" as in tea (théâtre; Thomas)

## Nasal Sounds

A vowel followed by **-n** or **-m** is usually a nasal sound. These are made by speaking through your nose. Pick these words out on the tape and check the pronunciation.

an . . . . . as in dans; restaurant; France

en . . . . . as in Jean; prendre; entrée

in . . . . . as in vin; train; pain

on . . . . . as in bonjour; pardon; attention

un, um . . . as in un; parfum

## Liaison

Linking words together. The final consonant of a word is not usually pronounced except when it is followed by a word which begins with a vowel. Then it is often pronounced to help the words to run together smoothly.

s and x . . . like "z"; deux oranges; nous avons

t . . . . . as in c'est ici

n . . . . . in un; un enfant; un homme

## Stress

Each syllable is stressed equally. As the stress usually falls on the beginning of a word in English it is important to try to remember to stress the end of the word as well when speaking French.

## Intonation

A statement usually ends on falling tone: **Je vais en ville.**

A question usually ends on a rising tone: **Avez-vous des croissants?**

Tip: There are hundreds of words that look alike in French and English and have similar meanings. These words are known as cognates (**mots apparentés**). While these words make understanding written French easier for non-French speakers, they present certain problems.

They are often spelled differently in the two languages:

l'université	<i>university</i>
le musée	<i>museum</i>
le professeur	<i>professor</i>

Their meanings are often different:

le collège	<i>middle school</i>
------------	----------------------

French words that look the same as English words are almost always pronounced differently (**la radio; le parking, les bagages**).

## 2. Nouns

Nouns are naming words, the labels we attach to everything in our world or in the world of the mind.

In French all nouns have a gender. They are either masculine or feminine, even when they are inanimate objects.

le train	<i>the train (m)</i>
la rue	<i>the street (f)</i>
la chaise	<i>the chair (f)</i>

While there are no general rules for learning gender, certain word endings give clues.

### Masculine Words

Most nouns denoting male people are masculine: **le mari**—the husband.

Most nouns denoting animals are masculine: **le lion**—the lion; **le chien**—the dog.

Days, months, seasons, weights, measures, and languages are mostly masculine.

Exceptions: **la livre**—pound; **la tonne**—ton; **la moitié**—half.

Most trees, shrubs, and metals are masculine: **le marronnier**—chestnut tree; **le laurier**—laurel; **le fer**—iron.

Most countries, rivers, fruit, and vegetables not ending in **-e** are masculine: **le Canada; le Rhin; le melon; le chou** (but **la France; la Seine; la poire; la carotte**).

Most nouns of English origin are masculine: **le week-end; le ticket; le football**.

Most words with these endings are also masculine:

-acle	le spectacle	<i>show</i>
-icle	un article	<i>article</i>
-ail	le travail	<i>work</i>
-c	le sac	<i>the bag</i>
-eau	le gâteau	<i>the cake</i>
-ème	le problème	<i>the problem</i>
-ment	le sentiment	<i>feeling</i>
-oir	le couloir	<i>corridor</i>

## Feminine Words

Most names of countries, rivers, fruit, and vegetables ending in **-e** are feminine words: **la France**; **la Seine**; **la pomme**—apple; **la tomate**—tomato.

Except: **le Mexique**; **le Danube**; **le Rhône**; **le légume**—vegetable.

Most shops are feminine: **la boulangerie**—bakery; **la pharmacie**—pharmacy.

Most nouns ending in:

-ance/anse/ence/ense	la chance— <i>luck</i> ; la danse— <i>dance</i> ; la science— <i>science</i> ; la défense— <i>defense</i> (and la Défense, an area of Paris) (Exception: le silence)
-ée	l'entrée (Exceptions: le lycée; le musée)
-lle	la fille— <i>girl/daughter</i> ; la grenouille— <i>frog</i>
-ine and -une	la piscine— <i>swimming pool</i> ; la fortune— <i>fortune</i>

Most abstract nouns are feminine:

**la nature**—nature; **la concentration**—concentration; **la beauté**—beauty.

To make the feminine form of masculine nouns when talking about jobs and nationalities, etc., add **-e**:

**un ami**—a friend (m); **une amie**—a friend (f)

**un américain, une américaine**

To make the feminine form of masculine nouns ending in:

-n	take -ne:	l'informaticien—l'informaticienne
-eur	take -se:	le vendeur—la vendeuse
	-ice:	le directeur—la directrice
-er	take -ère:	le boulanger—la boulangère

To make the plural, most nouns add an **-s**: **les trains**; **les rues**; **les enfants**.

Most nouns ending in **-au** add an **-x**: **le château** (castle), **les châteaux**.

-eu	le neveu ( <i>nephew</i> )	les neveux
-ou	le chou ( <i>cabbage</i> )	les choux

Most nouns ending in **-al** change the **-al** to **-aux**: **le journal** (newspaper), **les journaux**.

\*Remember the plural **-s** and **-x** are not pronounced except in front of another word beginning with a vowel or a silent “**h**.”

The plural of **monsieur** is **messieurs** and of **madame** is **mesdames**.

Because the final “**s**” of the plural is silent, the singular and plural forms of regular nouns sound the same. However, you can usually tell whether a noun is singular or plural in spoken French by listening to its determiners—**un disque, des disques**.

### 3. Determiners

Articles are determiners. They are used with nouns to indicate whether you are referring to something specific (definite article), to something in general (indefinite article), an unspecified quantity (the partitive), or a specific item (the demonstrative adjective).

The definite article changes according to whether the noun is masculine or feminine, singular, or plural. There is one plural form for masculine or feminine:

m.	f.	pl.
le train	la rue	les trains/ les rues

If the noun begins with a vowel or “h” the **le/la** shortens to **l’**:

m.	f.	pl.
l’hôtel	l’eau	les hôtels/les eaux

The definite article is used in French:

- when making a general statement or asking a general question:

J’aime les gâteaux.                    *I like (the) cakes.*  
Aimez-vous les enfants?            *Do you like (the) children?*

- with abstract nouns:

C’est la vie!                            *That’s (the) life!*

- with parts of the body:

Levez le bras.                         *Raise your (the) arm.*  
Je me lave la figure.                *I am washing my (the) face.*

- with names of countries and languages:

**La France; le Canada; le français; le japonais.**

- with names of geographical features and monuments:

**la Seine; le mont Blanc; la tour Eiffel.**

- instead of the indefinite article when talking about prices and quantities:

**quinze francs le kilo.**

The indefinite article (in English “a”) also has a masculine and a feminine form:

m.	f.
un hôtel	une chambre

It is usually omitted when talking about jobs:

Il est professeur.                    *He is a teacher.*  
Elle est étudiante.                 *She is a student.*

The partitive article is used to express the notion of quantity. This is used to talk about an

unspecified amount. It may not always be expressed in English, but it is always required in French.

Voulez-vous du sucre? *Do you want (some) sugar?*

Je prends du sucre. *I take (some) sugar.*

Je voudrais du pain, de la tarte aux pommes, et des croissants.

I would like some bread, some apple tart, and some croissants.

The partitive is formed by the preposition **de** plus a form of the definite article.

It also has different forms in the masculine, feminine, and plural:

m.	f.	pl.
du	de la	des

In a negative statement (“not a/any”), **de** is used for all forms:

m.	f.	pl.
Je n'ai pas de mari	de femme	d'enfants
<i>I don't have a husband</i>	<i>a wife</i>	<i>any children</i>

## Prepositions + Articles

After the prepositions **à** (to) and **de** (of), the definite article takes these forms:

à + le = au	à + les = aux	
m.	f.	pl.
au	à la	aux
Je vais au bureau	à la poste	aux toilettes
de + le = du	de + les = des	
m.	f.	pl.
du	de la	des

**Je voudrais du pain, de la viande, et des pommes de terre.**

## 4. Adjectives

An adjective is a describing or limiting word. Adjectives “agree” with the noun they are describing. That is, they must be masculine or feminine, singular, or plural. The feminine form of most adjectives is formed by adding “**e**” to the masculine form, and for the plural, by adding “**s**”:

m.	f.	m. pl.	f. pl.
le petit jardin	la petite maison	les petits jardins	les petites maisons
le grand homme	la grande femme	les grands hommes	les grandes femmes

If an adjective already ends in “**e**” like **rouge**, do not add another “**e**” to make the feminine form. Likewise, if an adjective ends in “**s**,” do not add another “**s**” to make it plural.

Pronunciation. Remember the final “**t**” in **petit** and “**d**” in **grand** are not pronounced but in **petite/grande** they are pronounced as they are no longer the last letter.

## Irregular Adjectives

	<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>m. pl.</i>	<i>f. pl.</i>
<i>Most adjectives ending in</i>				
-n double the "n"—	bon	bonne	bons	bonnes
-s double the "s"—	gros	grosse	gros	grosses
<i>Most adjectives ending in -e stay the same</i>				
	jeune	jeune	jeunes	jeunes
<i>Most adjectives ending in -f change:</i>				
-ve	actif	active	actifs	actives
-eux -euse	heureux	heureuse	heureux	heureuses
<i>or</i>				
-ille	vieux	vieille	vieux	vieilles*
-g -gue	long	longue	longs	longues
-er -ère	cher	chère	chers	chères
-eau -elle	beau	belle	beaux	belles*

\* Before masculine nouns beginning with a vowel or **h**: **vieil/bel**.

## Adjectives of Color

These follow the same rules as other adjectives:

<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>m. pl.</i>	<i>f. pl.</i>
rouge	rouge	rouges	rouges
noir	noire	noirs	noires
blanc	blanche	blancs	blanches

Colors that are really nouns used as adjectives don't change:

e.g., **bordeaux**, **cerise**, **chocolat**, **crème**, **ivoire**, **lilas**, **parme**, **saumon**, etc.

<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>m. pl.</i>	<i>f. pl.</i>
marron	marron	marron	marron

Demonstrative adjectives (this/that) are used to point out a specific noun or pronoun.

These also have different forms for the masculine, feminine, singular, and plural:

<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
ce jardin	cette maison	ces enfants

(*cet* before masculine nouns beginning with a vowel or "h"—*cet* enfant, *cet* hôtel)

Sometimes to distinguish clearly between this and that, **ci** or **là** may be added to a noun.

Ce monsieur-ci est gentil.	<i>This man here is nice.</i>
Ce monsieur-là est vieux.	<i>That man there is old.</i>

## Position of Adjectives

All adjectives of color and most other adjectives follow the noun they modify. All masculine and feminine plural adjectives share the same form:

**Un chien noir; une montagne française; des enfants terribles,** etc.

These common adjectives usually come in front of the noun: **beau; bon; court; gentil; grand; gros; haut; jeune; joli; long; mauvais; nouveau; petit; vieux; premier; deuxième,** etc.

**Un jeune homme; une vieille maison; des petits enfants,** etc.

Possessive adjectives: my, your, his, her, etc. These also change to “agree” with the noun and always come in front of the noun.

	<i>m.</i>	<i>f.</i>	<i>pl.</i>
<i>my</i>	mon	ma	mes
<i>your</i>	ton	ta	tes
<i>his/her</i>	son	sa	ses
<i>our</i>	notre	notre	nos
<i>your</i>	votre	votre	vos
<i>their</i>	leur	leur	leurs

## Comparison of Adjectives

### Comparative

Il est plus grand que moi.  
Elle est plus petite que lui.  
C'est plus/moins cher.

*He is bigger than I am.*  
*She is smaller than he is.*  
*It is more/less expensive.*

### Superlative

Il est le plus petit.  
le plus beau  
le moins cher  
le plus grand

*He is the smallest.*  
*the nicest*  
*the least expensive*  
*the biggest*

## 5. Pronouns

A pronoun is a word which stands in place of a noun. There are 5 different forms of the pronoun, but you will find that many of them are similar.

### Singular

Subject	Reflexive	Direct object	Indirect object	Emphatic
Je . . . <i>I</i>	me . . . <i>myself</i>	me . . . <i>me</i>	me . . . <i>to me</i>	moi . . . <i>me!</i>
tu . . . <i>you</i>	te . . . <i>yourself</i>	te . . . <i>you</i>	te . . . <i>to you</i>	toi . . . <i>you!</i>
il . . . <i>he</i>	se . . . <i>himself</i>	le . . . <i>him</i>	lui . . . <i>to him</i>	lui . . . <i>him!</i>
elle . . . <i>she</i>	se . . . <i>herself</i>	la . . . <i>her</i>	lui . . . <i>to her</i>	elle . . . <i>her!</i>
on . . . <i>one</i>	se . . . <i>oneself</i>			

# Plural

Subject	Reflexive	Direct object	Indirect object	Emphatic
nous . . . <i>we</i>	nous . . . <i>ourselves</i>	nous . . . <i>us</i>	nous . . . <i>to us</i>	nous . . . <i>us!</i>
vous . . . <i>you</i>	vous . . . <i>yourselves</i>	vous . . . <i>you</i>	vous . . . <i>to you</i>	vous . . . <i>you!</i>
ils . . . . . <i>they (m)</i>	se . . . <i>themselves</i>	les . . . . . <i>them</i>	leur . . . . . <i>to them</i>	eux. . . . . <i>them!</i>
elles . . . . . <i>they (f)</i>	se . . . <i>them</i>	les . . . . . <i>them</i>	leur . . . . . <i>to them</i>	elles . . . <i>them!</i>

Subject pronouns are the ones used before a verb when making a statement:

**Je suis américain(e). Il va en ville. Nous sommes enchantés ...**

or they can be used after the verb when asking a question:

**Veux-tu venir à Paris? Avez-vous une voiture?**

Remember:

You only use **tu** to a child or someone you know very well. You usually wait until you are invited to **tutoyer** (call each other by the **tu** form). Otherwise, use the **vous** form (**vouvoyer**).

You only use the **elles** form if ALL the people referred to are feminine. If there are a hundred females and one male you have to use **ils!**

**On** can be used instead of **nous**—but still takes the **il/elle** form of the verb.

It is used more widely than “one” in English: **On va en ville**—we are going to town.

It is also used to convey the passive voice; e.g., One recommended this wine—**On a recommandé ce vin** (instead of saying: This wine was recommended).

Reflexive pronouns are used with reflexive verbs: **Je m’appelle ...** I am called (lit: I call myself). **Il se lève**—he gets up (lit: He gets himself up).

Direct object pronouns come after the verb in English, but in French they come BEFORE the verb:

Je le bois.	<i>I am drinking it</i> (le café).
Je ne la mange pas.	<i>I don’t eat it</i> (la viande).
Il l’achète.	<i>He is buying it</i> (le pull).
Elle les préfère.	<i>She prefers them</i> (les gants).
Je la vois.	<i>I see her.</i>
Elle m’a vu.	<i>She has seen me.</i>

Indirect object pronouns also come after the verb in English but BEFORE it in French. They can be recognized as they come after prepositions such as “for” or “to,” although the prepositions are often omitted in English.

Il me l’a acheté.	<i>He bought it for me.</i>
Elle le lui donne.	<i>She gives it to him.</i>
Il vous parle.	<i>He is talking to you.</i>

Where there are both direct and indirect pronouns the direct pronoun comes before the indirect one:

Je le lui ai donné.	<i>I gave it to him.</i>
---------------------	--------------------------

Emphatic pronouns are used for emphasis:

Moi? J'ai gagné?            *Me? I won?*  
Ça va, toi?                *How are you doing?*  
Lui, il est français!        *He is French!*

They are also used to emphasize possession:

C'est à moi.                 *It's mine.*  
Les autres sont à vous.     *The others are yours!*

	m.	f.	m. pl.	f. pl.
<i>this one</i>	celui-ci	celle-ci	ceux-ci	celles-ci
<i>that one</i>	celui-là	celle-là	ceux-là	celles-là

Je préfère celle-ci.            *I prefer this one (la voiture).*  
Nous préférons celui-là.      *We prefer that one (le gâteau au chocolat).*

## Interrogative Pronouns

<i>Which one?</i>	m.	f.	m. pl.	f. pl.
	Lequel?	Laquelle?	Lesquels?	Lesquelles?

*Which one do you prefer?* (La voiture) Laquelle préférez-vous?

## Relative Pronouns—The One Who/Which ...

Mon ami qui a un chien...      *My friend who has a dog...*  
Les amis qui habitent à Paris...    *The friends who live in Paris...*  
Le monsieur que je connais...      *The man (whom) I know...*

**Qui** is used for the subject and **que** for the object of the verb.

## y—there en—of it

These both come in front of the verb, but after any other pronouns:

Il y a ...                      *There is ...*  
J'y vais.                      *I am going there.*  
Il les y a vus.                *He saw them there.*

Except in commands: **Allez-y!** Let's go!

Il en achète.                 *He is buying some (of it/them).*  
J'en ai déjà mangé.         *I have already eaten some (of it).*  
On en a parlé hier.         *We talked about it yesterday.*

**Il** is also used impersonally to mean "it" in expressions such as:

Il fait beau.                 *It is nice (weather).*  
Il pleut.                      *It is raining.*  
Quelle heure est-il?         *What time is it?*

## 6. Prepositions

A preposition is a connecting word. Some prepositions tell you the position of something:

<i>on:</i>	sur la table	<i>on the table</i>
<i>under:</i>	sous la chaise	<i>under the chair</i>
<i>in front of:</i>	devant la gare	<i>in front of the station</i>
<i>beside:</i>	à côté de la banque	<i>beside the bank</i>
<i>in:</i>	dans la chambre	<i>in the room</i>
<i>near:</i>	La station de métro est près d'ici?	<i>Is the subway station near here?</i>
<b>but not all!</b>		
<i>for:</i>	pour mon ami	<i>for my friend</i>
<i>by:</i>	en train	<i>by train</i>
<i>with:</i>	avec mes enfants	<i>with my children</i>
<i>to:</i>	on va à la plage	<i>we are going to the beach</i>
<i>at the house of:</i>	chez moi	<i>at my house</i>
<i>of:</i>	un verre de vin	<i>a glass of wine</i>

## 7. Verbs

Verbs are action words. They say what a person or thing does.

The infinitive. There are three main types of verbs in French—those that end in:

-er	donner, manger, jouer
-re	répondre, prendre, mettre
-ir	finir, partir, sortir

If you take the ending off, you are left with the stem of the verb. This is used for making other forms of the verb.

### The Present Tense

This is used to say what you are doing now, what you do usually, or what you are just about to do.

-er (jouer—to play)	-re (répondre—to reply)	-ir (finir—to finish)
je joue	je réponds	je finis
tu joues	tu réponds	tu finis
il joue	il répond	il finit
nous jouons	nous répondons	nous finissons
vous jouez	vous répondez	vous finissez
ils jouent	ils répondent	ils finissent

The **elle** and **on** form are the same as the **il** form.

The **elles** form is the same as the **ils** form.

Some of the most commonly used verbs are irregular, but you will already know most of the ones that you are likely to need from hearing and practicing them on the audio.

Remember that the present tense is also used for talking about how long you have been doing something:

J'habite ici depuis deux ans. *I have lived here for 2 years.*  
(lit: I live here since 2 years.)

## The Perfect Tense

The past tense most commonly used in conversation is the perfect tense or the **passé composé**. As in English, this is made up of an auxiliary verb (like have) and the past participle. In French most verbs use the auxiliary **avoir** (to have), but some common verbs use the auxiliary **être** (to be).

avoir—to have		être—to be	
j'ai	nous avons	je suis	nous sommes
tu as	vous avez	tu es	vous êtes
il a	ils ont	il est	ils sont

and the past participle is formed:

-er verbs	jouer . . . joué	J'ai joué au tennis.
-re verbs	répondre . . . répondu	Il n'a pas répondu.
-ir verbs	finir . . . fini	Avez-vous fini?

Many common past participles are irregular.

Verbs which go with **être** can be learned in pairs:

**aller-venir; arriver-partir; entrer-sortir; monter-descendre; rester-tomber; naître-mourir; retourner** and verbs made up of these verbs, e.g., **rentrer; redescendre**, etc.

All reflexive verbs also go with **être**:

**Il s'est lavé.** but **Il a lavé la voiture.**

**Je me suis cassé la jambe.** but **J'ai cassé l'assiette.**

## The Imperfect Tense

This tense is used when talking about an interrupted action in the past:

I was doing something (imperfect) when something else happened (perfect).

*I was in the shower when the telephone rang.*

J'étais sous la douche quand le téléphone a sonné.

For a usual or habitual action:

Je jouais au tennis. *I used to play tennis.*

Descriptions in the past:

Il faisait beau. It was nice (weather).

The imperfect tense is formed from the **nous** form of the present tense and then adding the endings: **ais, ais, aït, ions, iez, aient**. The only exception is **être!**

Je jouais	nous jouions	j'étais	nous étions
tu jouais	vous jouiez	tu étais	vous étiez
il jouait	ils jouaient	il était	ils étaient

## The Future

For the near future, you can use the same construction as in English: the present tense of “to go” (**aller**) and the infinitive, e.g. Je vais manger du caviar. *I'm going to eat caviar.*

The future tense is formed by adding these endings to the infinitive (**-re** verbs take off the final **-e**): **ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont**.

Je jouerai	nous jouerons
tu joueras	vous jouerez
il jouera	ils joueront

But the most common verbs are irregular.

The future tense is not used much in conversation. It is more normal to use the **futur proche** or “near future” using the verb **aller** and the infinitive (I am going to ...), just as mentioned above.

Qu'est-ce que vous allez faire? *What are you going to do?*  
Je vais rendre visite à mes amis. *I am going to visit my friends.*

The conditional tense translates “would/could/should.”

Je voudrais ... *I would like ...*  
Il pourrait venir le vendredi. *He could come on Friday.*  
On devrait partir demain. *We ought to leave tomorrow.*

## 8. Verb Tables

### Regular -er, -re, -ir Verbs

Verbs such as **marcher, vendre, and finir** are regular in the present-perfect, imperfect, conditional, and future tenses as well as with **tu/vous** imperative. **Avoir** and **être** are also regular in all of the above forms.

### Irregular Verbs

<b>aller</b>	<b>faire</b>	<b>prendre</b>
<b>boire</b>	<b>lire</b>	<b>savoir</b>
<b>connaître</b>	<b>mettre</b>	<b>sortir</b>
<b>devoir</b>	<b>ouvrir</b>	<b>tenir</b>
<b>dire</b>	<b>partir</b>	<b>venir</b>
<b>dormir</b>	<b>pleuvoir</b>	<b>voir</b>
<b>écrire</b>	<b>pouvoir</b>	<b>vouloir</b>

## 9. Adverbs

An adverb is used to describe or modify a verb or adjective.

<i>fast</i> —vite	Il mange vite.	<i>He eats fast.</i>
<i>well</i> —bien	Elle travaille bien.	<i>She works well.</i>
<i>very</i> —très	Je suis très grand.	<i>I am very tall.</i>
<i>quite</i> —assez	Il va assez vite.	<i>He goes quite fast.</i>

Adverbs can be formed by adding **-ment** to the feminine form of some adjectives:

normal(e)	normalement	<i>normally</i>
final(e)	finalement	<i>finally</i>
facile	facilement	<i>easily</i>
rapide	rapidement	<i>quickly</i>

Common irregular adverbs

meilleur	mieux	<i>better</i>
mauvais	mal	<i>badly</i>
petit	peu	<i>little</i>
bon	bien	<i>well</i>

## Expressions of Time

bientôt . . . <i>soon</i>	Il va arriver bientôt. . . . <i>He will arrive soon.</i>
après . . . <i>after</i>	Après le repas on va au cinéma. . . . <i>After the meal we are going to the cinema.</i>
déjà . . . <i>already</i>	J'ai déjà vu ce film. . . . <i>I have already seen that film.</i>
depuis . . . <i>since</i>	Je suis ici depuis une semaine. . . . <i>I have been here a week.</i>

## Negation

ne ... pas	Je n'ai pas de famille. . . . <i>I don't have a family.</i>
ne ... personne	Je n'ai vu personne. . . . <i>I haven't seen anybody.</i>
ne ... rien	Il n'a rien. . . . <i>He doesn't have anything.</i>
ne ... jamais	Nous ne sommes jamais allés en France. . . . <i>We have never been to France.</i>
ne ... plus	Il ne pleut plus. . . . <i>It's no longer raining.</i>
ne ... que	Il ne m'en reste que trois. . . . <i>I have only 3 left.</i>

## 10. Asking Questions

In French, there are four principal ways of asking questions.

By inverting the verb and pronoun, as in English, and inserting a hyphen:

**Vous êtes fatigué. Êtes-vous fatigué?**

By adding **est-ce que** to a declarative sentence:

**Vous êtes fatigué. Est-ce-que vous êtes fatigué?**

By beginning a sentence with a noun subject and then adding the appropriate third-person subject pronoun after the verb:

**Charles est fatigué.**

**Charles est-il fatigué?**

**Les parents sont ensemble.**

**Les parents sont-ils ensemble?**

**La fille est contente.**

**La fille est-elle contente?**

By raising the voice at the end of an affirmative sentence:

**Vous êtes fatigué?**

## 11. Reference

### Numbers

#### Cardinal Numbers

These numbers indicate a quantity. As in English, cardinal numbers in French precede the nouns they modify.

The cardinal numbers are:

1 un/une	21 vingt et un, etc.
2 deux	30 trente
3 trois	31 trente et un, etc.
4 quatre	40 quarante
5 cinq	41 quarante et un, etc.
6 six	50 cinquante
7 sept	51 cinquante et un, etc.
8 huit	60 soixante
9 neuf	61 soixante et un
10 dix	70 soixante-dix
11 onze	71 soixante et onze, etc.*
12 douze	80 quatre-vingts
13 treize	81 quatre-vingt-un, etc.
14 quatorze	90 quatre-vingt-dix
15 quinze	91 quatre-vingt-onze, etc.
16 seize	100 cent
17 dix-sept	
18 dix-huit	
19 dix-neuf	
20 vingt	

101	cent un, etc.	400	quatre cents
110	cent dix, etc.	401	quatre cent un, etc.
200	deux cents	500	cinq cents
201	deux cent un, etc.	1000	mille
300	trois cents	1001	mille un, etc.
301	trois cent un, etc.		

\* In the French-speaking parts of Belgium and Switzerland, the numbers between 70 and 99 are different from those in France. 70 is **septante**, 80 is **huitante** in Switzerland, and 90 is **nonante** and in some areas of Switzerland **neuvante**.

## Useful phrases

oui	<i>yes</i>
non	<i>no</i>
s'il vous plaît	<i>please</i>
Merci.	<i>Thank you.</i>
Je ne comprends pas.	<i>I don't understand.</i>
Je n'ai rien compris.	<i>I haven't understood a thing.</i>
Parlez-vous anglais?	<i>Do you speak English?</i>
Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement?	<i>Could you speak more slowly please?</i>
Excusez moi!	<i>Excuse me/sorry!</i>
Je voudrais ...	<i>I would like ...</i>
Je peux ... ?	<i>May I ... ?</i>
Comment?	<i>Pardon?</i>
Avez-vous ... ?	<i>Do you have ... ?</i>
Pour aller à/au/aux ... ?	<i>How do I get to ... ?</i>
Quelle heure est-il?	<i>What time is it?</i>
ouvert	<i>open</i>
fermé	<i>closed</i>
Où est ... ?	<i>Where is ...?</i>

# French-English Glossary

---

This dictionary contains all the words from the course as well as additional vocabulary you may find helpful.

## Abbreviations and Symbols

**m** ..... masculine noun

**f** ..... feminine noun

**\*** ..... irregular verbs

## A

**à** *at/in*

**à côté de** *beside, next to*

**à deux minutes de** *two minutes from*

**à droite** *to the right*

**à gauche** *to the left*

**à pied** *on foot, by foot*

**acheter** *to buy*

**actif/active** *active*

**adorer** *to love*

**l'aéroport (m)** *airport*

**les affaires (f)** *belongings, "things"*

**affreux/affreux** *awful*

**l'âge (m)** *age*

**l'agent de police (m)** *police officer*

**l'agent des postes (m)** *post office worker*

**l'agglomération (f)** *built-up area*

**l'agneau (m)** *lamb*

**l'ail (m)** *garlic*

**aimer** *to like*

**l'aire de repos (f)**

*unsupervised rest area  
(bathrooms and picnic tables)*

**ajouter** *to add*

**l'Allemagne (f)** *Germany*

**en Allemagne** *in Germany*

**\*aller** *to go*

**un aller-retour** *a round-trip ticket*

**un aller simple** *a one-way ticket*

**alors** *well/then*

**l'ambulance (f)** *ambulance*

**américain/américaine**  
*American*

**l'ami(e)** *friend*

**l'ampoule (f)** *blister, light bulb*

**l'an (m)** *year*

**les analgésiques (m)** *painkillers*

**ancien(ne)** *very old*

**anglais/anglaise** *English*

**l'Angleterre (f)** *England*

**en Angleterre** *in England*

**l'anorak (m)** *anorak*

**les Antilles (f)** *the Antilles (West Indies)*

**aux Antilles** *in the Antilles*

**l'appartement (m)** *apartment*

**apporter** *to bring*

**après-demain** *the day after tomorrow*

**l'après-midi (m)** *the afternoon*

**l'après-shampooing (m)**  
*conditioner*

**l'armoire (f)** *wardrobe*

**l'arrêt d'autobus (m)** *bus stop*

**arrêter** *to stop*

**l'arrivée (f)** *arrival*

**arriver** *to arrive*

**l'artiste graphique (m/f)**  
*graphic artist*

**l'ascenseur (m)** *elevator*

**les asperges (f)** *asparagus*

**l'assiette (f)** *plate*

**l'assurance (f)** *insurance*

**l'atelier (m)** *workshop/studio*

**au coin de** *on the corner*  
**aujourd'hui** *today*  
**aussi** *also*  
**l'autoroute (f)** *highway*  
**avant** *before*  
**avec** *with*  
**avec une demi-heure de retard**  
*half an hour late*  
**l'avion (m)** *plane*  
**avoir besoin de** *to need*  
**avoir l'intention de**  
*to intend to*  
**l'avocat** *lawyer*

## B

**une baguette** *a long French loaf of bread*  
**la baignoire** *bathtub*  
**le balcon** *balcony*  
**à la banane** *banana flavored*  
**la banlieue** *suburbs*  
**la banque** *bank*  
**le bar** *bar*  
**les bas** *stockings*  
**les baskets** *sneakers*  
**beau/belle** *nice, beautiful*  
**beige** *beige*  
**belge** *Belgian*  
**la Belgique** *Belgium*  
**en Belgique** *in Belgium*  
**le beurre** *butter*  
**beurrer** *to butter/grease*  
**le billet** *ticket*  
**blanc(he)** *white*  
**bleu(e)** *blue*  
**bleu marine** *navy blue*

**le bœuf** *beef*  
**\*boire** *to drink*  
**la boisson** *drink*  
**la boîte** *box*  
**la boîte (de nuit)** *night club*  
**de bonne heure** *early*  
**le bord de la mer** *seaside*  
**le bouchon** *traffic jam, cork*  
**le boulanger** *baker*  
**la bouteille** *bottle*  
**(de vin rouge/blanc)** *(of red/white wine)*  
**le bras** *arm*  
**le Brésil** *Brazil*  
**au Brésil** *in Brazil*  
**brésilien/brésilienne** *Brazilian*  
**la brosse** *hairbrush*  
**la brosse à dents** *toothbrush*  
**brûler** *to burn*  
**le bureau** *office*  
**la bureautique** *office work*  
**le bus** *bus*

## C

**la campagne** *countryside*  
**le camping** *camping/campsite*  
**le Canada** *Canada*  
**au Canada** *in Canada*  
**canadien/canadienne**  
*Canadian*  
**le canapé** *sofa*  
**le canoë-kayak** *canoeing*  
**le car** *coach; long-distance bus*  
**le car de ramassage** *school bus*  
**le carnet** *"booklet" of tickets*  
**les carottes** *carrots*

**à carreaux** *checked*  
**le carrefour** *intersection*  
**la carte bancaire** *bank card*  
**la casquette** *cap*  
**la casquette de base-ball**  
*baseball cap*  
**la cathédrale** *cathedral*  
**céder (le passage)** *to give way*  
**le céleri** *celery*  
**le cendrier** *ashtray*  
**le centre** *center*  
**le centre hospitalier** *hospital complex*  
**les céréales** *breakfast cereal*  
**le chalet** *chalet*  
**la chambre** *room/bedroom*  
**les champignons** *mushrooms*  
**changer de l'argent** *to change money*  
**le chapeau** *hat*  
**chaque** *each*  
**le chat** *cat*  
**les chaussettes** *socks*  
**les chaussures** *shoes*  
**chauve** *bald*  
**la chemise** *shirt*  
**le chemisier** *blouse*  
**chercher** *to look for*  
**le cheval** *horse*  
**la chevelure** *head of hair*  
**au chocolat** *chocolate flavored*  
**choisir** *to choose*  
**le choix** *choice*  
**le chou** *cabbage*  
**le chou-fleur** *cauliflower*  
**le Chronopost** *express mail*  
**le cinéma** *cinema*  
**cinq** *five*

**le cirque** *circus*  
**les clignotants** *turn signals*  
**la clinique** *clinic*  
**le cœur** *heart*  
**le collègue** *middle school*  
**Comment?** *How?*  
**le commerce** *trade*  
**le commissariat de police**  
*central police station*  
**la commission** *commission,*  
*charge*  
**la commode** *chest of drawers*  
**composter** *to validate a ticket*  
**compris(e)** *included*  
**le/la comptable** *accountant*  
**conduire** *to drive*  
**la conférence** *lecture*  
**la confiture** *jam, jelly*  
**le contenu** *contents*  
**continuer** *to continue*  
**la correspondance**  
*correspondence, connection*  
**le corps** *body*  
**le costume** *suit (for men)*  
**en costume cravate** *in a shirt*  
*and tie*  
**le couteau** *knife*  
**la crème antiseptique**  
*antiseptic cream*  
**la crème Chantilly** *vanilla-*  
*flavored, sweetened whipped*  
*cream*  
**la crème fraîche** *heavy cream*  
**la crème hydratante**  
*moisturizing cream*  
**la crêpe** *pancake*  
**la croisière** *cruise*  
**un croissant** *a croissant*  
**la cuillère** *spoon*

**la cuillère à soupe** *a soup/*  
*dessert spoon*  
**la cuillerée à soupe** *a soup/*  
*dessert spoonful*  
**cuire** *to cook*  
**la cuisine** *kitchen*  
**le cuisinier/la cuisinière** *cook,*  
*cooker*  
**les cuisses de grenouille** *frogs'*  
*legs*  
**le cyclisme** *cycling*

## D

**dans** *in*  
**dans le centre** *in the middle*  
**dans l'est** *in the east*  
**danser** *to dance*  
**dedans** *inside*  
**demain** *tomorrow*  
**la demi-bouteille** *half-bottle*  
**le dentiste** *dentist*  
**le dentifrice** *toothpaste*  
**les dents** *teeth*  
**le déodorant** *deodorant*  
*à bille* *roll-on*  
*en spray* *spray*  
**le départ** *departure*  
**derrière** *behind*  
**descendre** *to go down*  
**le dessert** *dessert*  
**le dessinateur/la dessinatrice**  
*illustrator*  
**détester** *to hate*  
**deux** *two*  
**devant** *in front of*  
**la devise** *currency*  
**dimanche** *Sunday*

**la dinde** *turkey*  
**le directeur/la directrice**  
*director*  
**la direction** *direction*  
**le distributeur automatique**  
*ATM, vending machine*  
**dix** *ten*  
**dix-huit** *eighteen*  
**dix-neuf** *nineteen*  
**dix-sept** *seventeen*  
**donner** *to give*  
**donner sur** *to look on to*  
**le dos** *back*  
**doubler** *to overtake*  
**la douche** *shower*  
**doux/douce** *soft*  
**douze** *twelve*  
**le droit** *law*  
**la durée** *length of time*  
**durer** *to last*

## E

**l'écharpe** (f) *scarf*  
**écouter** *to listen*  
**l'église** (f) *church*  
**les embouteillages** *traffic jam*  
*(lit.: bottlenecks)*  
**emmener** *to take (someone)*  
**l'emplacement** (m) *space, spot*  
**l'employé(e)** *employee*  
**en** *in*  
**en été** *in summer*  
**en face de** *opposite*  
**l'enfant** (m) and (f) *child*  
**en retard** *late*  
**l'enseignement** (m) *education*

**entre** *between*  
**l'entrée** (f) *entrance*  
**l'entreprise** (f) *business*  
**environ** *about*  
**l'escalier** (m) *stairs*  
**les escargots** *snails*  
**l'essence** (f) *gas*  
**l'Espagne** (f) *Spain*  
**espagnol/espagnole** *Spanish*  
**en Espagne** *in Spain*  
**en vélo** *by bike*  
**en voiture** *by car*  
**l'équitation** (f) *horseback riding*  
**l'escalade** (f) *rock climbing*  
**l'est** *east*  
**et** *and*  
**les Etats-Unis** *the United States*  
**aux Etats-Unis** *in the United States*  
**\*être** *to be*  
**l'étudiant(e)** *student*

## F

**\*faire attention** *to be careful*  
**\*faire la grasse matinée** *to sleep in*  
**\*faire du jogging** *to go jogging*  
**\*faire du patin à glace** *to go ice-skating*  
**\*faire du tourisme** *to take a vacation*  
**\*faire pénétrer** *to rub in*  
**\*faire une liste** *to make a list*  
**\*faire une promenade** *to go for a walk*  
**\*faire un sondage** *to carry out a survey*

**fantastique** *fantastic*  
**la farine** *flour*  
**de blé noir** *buckwheat*  
**complète** *wholewheat*  
**fatigué(e)** *tired*  
**le fauteuil** *armchair*  
**la femme** *wife, woman*  
**la fenêtre** *window*  
**fermer** *to close*  
**les feux** *traffic lights*  
**la fille** *daughter*  
**le fils** *son*  
**le foot** *soccer*  
**formidable** *super/fantastic*  
**à four chaud** *in a hot oven*  
**la fourchette** *fork*  
**la fleur** *flower*  
**à la fraise** *strawberry flavored*  
**français/française** *French*  
**la France** *France*  
**en France** *in France*  
**le frère/le demi-frère** *brother/half-brother*  
**le frigidaire/frigo** *refrigerator*  
**frisé(e)** *curly*  
**le fromage** *cheese*

## G

**la galette** *biscuit*  
**les gants** *gloves*  
**le garage** *garage*  
**la gare** *station; train station*  
**la gare routière** *bus station*  
**génial(e)** *great, fantastic*  
**le genou** *knee*

**le gibier** *game*  
**la glace** *ice cream*  
**le golf** *golf*  
**la gorge** *throat*  
**le goût** *taste*  
**grand(e)** *big*  
**le grand sac de sport** *big sport bag*  
**la grande surface** *large store*  
**les grands-parents** *grandparents*  
**le grandes vacances** *summer vacation*  
**gris(e)** *grey*  
**grossir** *to get fat*  
**le groupe touristique** *tour group*  
**le guichet** *ticket office*

## H

**habiller** *to dress someone else*  
**s'habiller** *to get dressed*  
**haché** *chopped*  
**le hamburger** *hamburger*  
**les haricots** *beans*  
**les heures de pointe** *rush hour*  
**le hockey sur glace** *ice hockey*  
**l'hôpital** (m) *hospital*  
**l'horaire** (f) *timetable*  
**l'horodateur** (m) *parking meter*  
**l'hôtel** (m) *hotel*  
**l'hôtellerie** (f) *hotel and catering*  
**huit** *eight*  
**l'hypermarché** (m) *large supermarket*

## I

**ici** here

**s'imaginer (galoper)** to  
imagine oneself (galloping)

**l'immeuble (m)** apartment  
building

**impeccable** perfect

**l'imperméable (m)** raincoat

**l'infirmier/l'infirmière** nurse

**l'informaticien(ne)** computer  
technician

**l'informatique (f)** information  
technology

**les installations olympiques**  
the Olympic installations

**l'instituteur/l'institutrice**  
primary school teacher

**l'Italie (f)** Italy

**en Italie** in Italy

**italien/italienne** Italian

## J

**la jambe** leg

**le jambon** ham

**le Japon** Japan

**au Japon** in Japan

**japonais/japonaise** Japanese

**le jardin** garden

**le jardin botanique** botanical  
garden

**jaune** yellow

**jeudi** Thursday

**le jogging** jogging

**joli(e)** pretty

**jouer au tennis** to play tennis

**le/la journaliste** journalist

**le jour** day

**les jours de la semaine** the  
days of the week

**la jupe** skirt

**jusqu'à** until

## K

**les kleenex** tissues

## L

**là** there

**là-bas** over there

**laisser** to leave

**le lait** milk

**le lait bronzant** sun cream

**les produits laitiers** dairy  
products

**le lave-vaisselle** dishwasher

**laver** to wash  
something/someone else

**se laver** to get washed

**les légumes** vegetables

**lequel/laquelle** which one

**lever** to lift up/raise

**\*se lever** to get up

**les lieux historiques** historic  
sites

**la ligne** line

**la limite de vitesse** speed limit

**le lit** bed

**loin de** far from

**la lotion après-rasage**  
aftershave

**le lotissement** housing estate

**la luge** toboggan

**lundi** Monday

**les lunettes de soleil** sunglasses

## M

**la machine à laver** washing  
machine

**le magasin** shop

**magnifique** magnificent

**la main** hand

**mais** but

**la maison** house

**le manège** merry-go-round

**manger** to eat

**le manteau** coat

**le marché** market

**mardi** Tuesday

**la margarine** margarine

**le mari** husband

**marron** brown

**le match de foot** soccer game

**le matin** morning

**le/la mécanicien(ne)**  
mechanic

**le médecin** doctor

**les médias** media

**les médicaments** medicines

**meilleur(e)** best

**mélanger** to mix

**même** even

**la mer** sea

**mercredi** Wednesday

**la mère** mother

**le métier** job

**le métro** subway

**mettre (les clignotants)** to  
switch on (the turn signals)

**les meubles** furniture

**midi** noon

**le miel** honey

**le milk-shake** milk shake

**mince** thin

**minuit** *midnight*  
**le miroir** *mirror*  
**moderne** *modern*  
**le mois** *month*  
**la monnaie** *change*  
**la montagne** *mountain*  
**monter** *to climb, go up*  
**le motif** *badge/logo, pattern*  
**la moto** *motorbike*  
**le mouchoir en papier** *tissue*  
**la moutarde** *mustard*  
**moyen(ne)** *medium*  
**le musée** *museum*

## N

**la natation** *swimming*  
**la neige** *snow*  
**neuf** *nine*  
**noir(e)** *black*  
**les noix** *nuts*  
**le nom** *name*  
**le nombre** *number*  
**non** *no*  
**le nord** *north*  
**normalement** *usually*  
**la note** *hotel bill*

## O

**l'œil (m) (les yeux pl.)** *eye*  
**l'œuf (m)** *egg*  
**les oignons** *onions*  
**l'omelette (f)** *omelette*  
**aux fines herbes** *with mixed herbs*  
**nature** *plain*  
**au jambon** *with ham*  
**ondulé(e)** *wavy*

**onze** *eleven*  
**l'ordinateur portable (m)** *lap-top computer*  
**organiser** *to organize*  
**l'Orient** *the East*  
**ou** *or*  
**Où?** *Where?*  
**oublier** *to forget*  
**l'ouest** *west*  
**oui** *yes*  
**ouvert** *open*  
**\*ouvrir** *to open*

## P

**le pain** *bread*  
**le panneau** *road sign*  
**le pantalon** *pants*  
**le parapente** *paragliding*  
**le parapluie** *umbrella*  
**le parc d'attractions** *amusement park*  
**les parents** *parents*  
**le parking** *parking garage, lot*  
**le patin à glace** *ice skating*  
**la patinoire** *ice rink*  
**\*partir** *to leave (depart)*  
**le pavillon** *detached house*  
**payer** *to pay*  
**le péage** *toll*  
**la pêche (au brochet)** *fishing (pike)*  
**le peigne** *comb*  
**pendant** *during*  
**le père** *father*  
**permanaté(e)** *permed*  
**le permis de conduire** *driver's license*  
**le persil** *parsley*

**petit(e)** *small*  
**un(e) petit(e) ami(e)** *a boyfriend/girlfriend*  
**les petites annonces** *advertisements*  
**les petits pois** *peas*  
**peut-être** *perhaps, maybe*  
**le pharmacien/la pharmacienne** *pharmacist*  
**la pharmacie** *pharmacy*  
**le pichet (de vin)** *jug (of wine)*  
**la pièce** *room*  
**la pièce d'identité** *identity card*  
**la pièce (d'un franc)** *coin (one franc)*  
**le pied** *foot*  
**la piscine** *swimming pool*  
**aux pistaches** *pistachio flavored*  
**la place** *square*  
**la place du marché** *marketplace*  
**la plage** *beach*  
**la planche à voile** *windsurfing*  
**le plat à four** *baking dish*  
**la plongée** *diving*  
**le poisson** *fish*  
**le poivre** *pepper*  
**les pommes de terre** *potatoes*  
**le pont** *bridge*  
**le porc** *pork*  
**la porte** *door*  
**le porte-documents** *briefcase*  
**la portion de frites** *order of fries*  
**portugais/portugaise** *Portuguese*  
**la poste** *post office*

**les postes et télécommunications** *post and telecommunications*

**le poulet** *chicken*

**préférer** *to prefer*

**\*prendre** *to take*

**prendre le petit déjeuner** *to have breakfast*

**prendre un bain** *to take a bath*

**prendre une douche** *to take a shower*

**prendre un rendez-vous** *to make an appointment*

**près de** *near (to)*

**la pression** *draft beer*

**prochain(e)** *next*

**le professeur** *teacher*

**le pull** *sweater*

## Q

**le quai** *platform*

**quand** *when*

**le quartier** *neighborhood*

**quatorze** *fourteen*

**quatre** *four*

**Que ...?** *What ...?*

**Quel/Quelle?** *What?*

**quelquefois** *sometimes*

**quinze** *fifteen*

**quitter** *to leave (the house)*

## R

**les radis** *radishes*

**le rafting** *rafting*

**le ragoût** *stew/casserole*

**raide** *straight*

**ralentir** *to slow down*

**ramolli** *softened*

**la randonnée** *hike/long walk*

**râpé** *grated*

**rapide** *rapid, quick*

**raser** *to shave someone else*

**se raser** *to shave (oneself)*

**le rasoir** *razor*

**rater** *to miss*

**rayé(e)** *striped*

**la réception** *reception*

**régler** *to settle (a bill)*

**rempli(e)** *filled*

**le repas** *meal*

**rentrer** *to go home*

**répondre (aux questions)** *to answer (questions)*

**le repos** *rest (peace and quiet)*

**reposant** *relaxing*

**le réseau** *network*

**la réservation** *reservation*

**les ressources humaines** *human resources*

**le restaurant** *restaurant*

**rester** *to stay*

**réveiller** *to wake someone else*

**se réveiller** *to wake up*

**rien** *nothing*

**la rivière** *river*

**le rond-point** *(traffic) circle*

**la robe** *dress*

**rose** *pink*

**rouge** *red*

**rouler** *to drive; to go (by vehicle)*

**la route** *road*

**la route nationale** *main road*

**la route départementale**

*secondary road*

**la rue** *street*

**la rue piétonne** *pedestrian area*

## S

**le sac** *bag*

**le sachet de levure** *packet of yeast*

**la salade** *lettuce*

**la salade niçoise** *salad niçoise*

**de fruits de mer** *seafood salad*

**aux trois fromages** *with three cheeses*

**le saladier** *salad bowl*

**salé(e)** *salty*

**la salle** *room*

**la salle à manger** *dining room*

**la salle de bains** *bathroom*

**la salle de séjour** *living room*

**le salon** *sitting room*

**le salon de coiffure** *hairdressing salon*

**samedi** *Saturday*

**le sandwich** *sandwich*

**sans** *without*

**la santé** *health*

**le saucisson** *sausage*

**sauf** *except*

**le savon** *soap*

**les sciences et techniques** *science and technology*

**le/la scientifique** *scientist*

**le sèche-cheveux (de voyage)** *portable hairdryer*

**sécher** *to dry*

**le/la secrétaire** *secretary*

**le secteur automobile** *automobile sector*  
**seize** *sixteen*  
**le sel** *salt*  
**la semaine** *week*  
**sept** *seven*  
**le service d'urgence** *emergency service*  
**les serviettes hygiéniques** *sanitary napkins*  
**le shampoing** *shampoo*  
**pour les cheveux fins** *for fine hair*  
**pour les cheveux normaux** *for normal hair*  
**s'il vous plaît** *please*  
**le sirop** *syrup*  
**six** *six*  
**le ski** *skiing*  
**le ski alpin** *downhill skiing*  
**le ski de fond** *cross-country skiing*  
**le ski nautique** *waterskiing*  
**SNCF (la Société nationale des chemins de fer)** *French national railways*  
**la société** *company/business*  
**la sœur/la demi-sœur** *sister/half-sister*  
**la soie** *silk*  
**le soir** *evening*  
**le soleil** *sun*  
**sortir** *to leave, go out*  
**les sous-vêtements** *underclothes*  
**souvent** *often*  
**le sparadrap** *bandage*  
**la station** *station*  
**la station de métro** *subway station*  
**la station de taxi** *taxi stand*

**la station-service** *gas station (with shop and refreshments/restaurant)*  
**un steak frites** *steak and fries*  
**stupide** *stupid*  
**le sucre** *sugar*  
**le sud** *south*  
**la Suisse** *Switzerland*  
**en Suisse** *in Switzerland*  
**suisse** *Swiss*  
**suivre** *to follow*  
**superbe** *super(b)*  
**le supermarché** *the supermarket*  
**le supplément** *supplement*  
**les suppositoires** *suppositories*  
**sur** *on*  
**le syndicat d'initiative** *tourist information office*

## T

**le tailleur** *suit (for women)*  
**le talon** *heel*  
**les tampons** *tampons*  
**tant (de)** *so many*  
**la tarte aux pommes** *apple pie*  
**la tartine** *slice of bread and butter*  
**la tasse** *cup*  
**le taux de change** *exchange rate*  
**le taxi** *taxi*  
**le téléphone portatif** *mobile phone*  
**la tête** *head*  
**le théâtre** *theater*  
**le thé au citron** *tea with lemon*

**le ticket** *ticket*  
**les toilettes** *toilet*  
**les tomates** *tomatoes*  
**toujours** *still, always*  
**la tour** *tower*  
**le tour** *tour*  
**tousser** *to cough*  
**le train** *train*  
**la tranquillité** *peace and quiet*  
**le travail** *work*  
**le traveller/le chèque de voyage** *traveler's check*  
**traverser** *to cross*  
**treize** *thirteen*  
**trois** *three*  
**la trousse** *bag*

## U

**un/une** *a/one*

## V

**les vacances d'hiver** *winter vacation*  
**à la vanille** *vanilla flavored*  
**le veau** *veal*  
**le vélo** *bike*  
**vendredi** *Friday*  
**\*venir** *to come*  
**le ventre** *stomach*  
**le verre (de vin)** *glass (of wine)*  
**vers** *about (time)*  
**verser** *to pour*  
**vert(e)** *green*  
**vieux/vieille** *old*  
**le vieux port** *the old port*

**la viande** *meat*

**la ville** *town*

**le vin (rouge/blanc)** *wine*  
(*red/white*)

**vingt** *twenty*

**la visite guidée** *guided tour*

**visiter** *to visit*

**Voici ...** *Here is ...*

**la voie** (*traffic*) *lane*

**la voile** *sailing*

**la voiture** *car*

**la volaille** *poultry*

**le volley** *volleyball*

**votre** *your*

**le voyage** *journey*

**voyager** *to travel*

**vraiment** *really*

**le VTT (vélo tout terrain)**  
*mountain bike*

**la vue** *view*

## **W**

**le week-end** *weekend*

## **y**

**y** *there*

**le yaourt** *yogurt*