Look out for the following icons throughout the book:

- **‘Shortcut’ Phrase**
  Easy-to-remember alternative to the full phrase

- **Q&A Pair**
  Question-and-answer pair – we suggest a response to the question asked

- **Look For**
  Phrases you may see on signs, menus etc

- **Listen For**
  Phrases you may hear from officials, locals etc

- **Language Tip**
  An insight into the foreign language

- **Culture Tip**
  An insight into the local culture

**How to read the phrases:**
- Coloured words and phrases throughout the book are phonetic guides to help you pronounce the foreign language.
- Lists of phrases with tinted background are options you can choose to complete the phrase above them.

**These abbreviations will help you choose the right words and phrases in this book:**

- a: adjective
- f: feminine
- inf: informal
- lit: literal
- m: masculine
- n: noun
- pl: plural
- pol: polite
- sg: singular
- v: verb

\[ \text{Shortcut’ Phrase} \]
\[ \text{Easy-to-remember alternative to the full phrase} \]

\[ \text{Q&A Pair} \]
\[ \text{Question-and-answer pair – we suggest a response to the question asked} \]

\[ \text{Look For} \]
\[ \text{Phrases you may see on signs, menus etc} \]

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\[ \text{Culture Tip} \]
\[ \text{An insight into the local culture} \]
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Why Bother

You may be told of a cozy vineyard way off the tourist track, or discover that there’s little merit in the stereotype about the French being rude.

Distinctive Sounds

Throaty r, silent h, nasal vowels (pronounced as if you’re trying to force the sound ‘through the nose’).

French in the World

French is the official language of a number of international organisations (including the UN and the International Olympic Committee). French films are
**80 MILLION**
speak French as their first language

**50 MILLION**
speak French as their second language

Internationally renowned, and France has won the Nobel Prize in Literature more times than any other country.

**French in France**

Speaking a language other than their own is an emotional affair for the French, as attested by the online Musée des Horreurs (Museum of Horrors) of the Paris-based Défense de la Langue Française (DLF; Defence of the French Language; www.langue-francaise.org, in French).

**False Friends**

Warning: many French words look like English words but have a different meaning altogether, eg *menu* is a set lunch, not a menu (which is *carte* in French).

**Language Family**

Romance (developed from the Latin spoken by the Romans during their conquest of the 1st century BC). Close relatives include Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian.

**Must-Know Grammar**

French has a formal and informal word for ‘you’ (*vous* and *tu* respectively); it distinguishes between masculine and feminine forms of words, eg *beau/belle* (beautiful).

**Donations to English**

Numerous – thanks to the Norman invasion of England in the 11th century, some estimate that three-fifths of everyday English vocabulary arrived via French. You may recognise *café, déjà vu, bon vivant, cliché*...
5 Phrases to Learn Before You Go

1. **What are the opening hours?**
   
   Quelles sont les heures d’ouverture?
   
   kel son lay zer doo-vair-tewr

   French business hours are governed by a maze of regulations, so it’s a good idea to check before you make plans.

2. **I’d like the set menu, please.**
   
   Je voudrais le menu, s’il vous plaît.
   
   zher voo-dray ler mer-new seel voo play

   The best-value dining in France is the two- or three-course meal at a fixed price. Most restaurants have one on the chalkboard.

3. **Which wine would you recommend?**
   
   Quel vin vous conseillez?
   
   kel vun voo kon-say-yay

   Who better to ask for advice on wine than the French?

4. **Can I address you with ‘tu’?**
   
   Est-ce que je peux vous tutoyer?
   
   es ker zher per voo tew-twa-yay

   Before you start addressing someone with the informal ‘you’ form, it’s polite to ask permission first.

5. **Do you have plans for tonight/tomorrow?**
   
   Vous avez prévu quelque chose ce soir/demain?
   
   voo za-vay pray-vev kel-ker shoz ser swar/der-mun

   To arrange to meet up without sounding pushy, ask friends if they’re available rather than inviting them directly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cool!</td>
<td>Génial!</td>
<td>zhay-nyal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No worries.</td>
<td>Pas de soucis.</td>
<td>pa der soo-see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sure.</td>
<td>D’accord.</td>
<td>da-kor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No way!</td>
<td>Pas question!</td>
<td>pa kay-styon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just joking!</td>
<td>Je plaisante!</td>
<td>zher play-zont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too bad.</td>
<td>Tant pis.</td>
<td>tom pee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What a shame.</td>
<td>Quel dommage.</td>
<td>kel do-mazh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s up?</td>
<td>Qu’est-ce qu’il y a?</td>
<td>kes keel ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well done!</td>
<td>Bien joué!</td>
<td>byun zhoo-ay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not bad.</td>
<td>Pas mal.</td>
<td>pa mal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Understanding

### KEY PHRASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Vous parlez anglais?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't understand.</td>
<td>Je ne comprends pas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does (that) mean?</td>
<td>Qu’est-ce que (ça) veut dire ?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1a Do you speak English?  
**A** I speak a little.  
**B** Je parle un peu.  
**A** I understand.  
**B** Je comprends.  
**A** I don’t understand.  
**B** Je ne comprends pas.  
**A** I need an interpreter who speaks English.  
**B** J’ai besoin d’un interprète de langue anglaise.  
**A** I’d like to practice French.  
**B** Je voudrais parler en français.  

### 2a What does (that) mean?  
**B** Qu’est-ce que (ça) veut dire?  
**A** Comment ça se prononce?  

### 2b How do you pronounce this?  
**B** Comment ça se prononce?
# Numbers & Amounts

## KEY PHRASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many/much?</th>
<th>Combien?</th>
<th>kom-byun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>all</td>
<td>tout</td>
<td>too</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
<td>rien</td>
<td>ryun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cardinal Numbers

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>zéro</td>
<td>zay-ro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>un</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>deux</td>
<td>der</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>trois</td>
<td>trwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>quatre</td>
<td>ka-trer</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>sungk</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>dees</td>
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<td>onz</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>dooz</td>
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<td>treize</td>
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<td>quatorze</td>
<td>ka-torz</td>
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<td>kunz</td>
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<td>sez</td>
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<td>dix-sept</td>
<td>dee-set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>dix-huit</td>
<td>dee-zweet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>