

# **French**

**PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY** 

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# Look out for the following icons throughout the book:



'Shortcut' Phrase

Easy-to-remember alternative to the full phrase



**O&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
 m masculine
 pol polite

 f feminine
 n noun
 sg singular

 inf informal
 pl plural
 v verb

# **ABOUT THIS BOOK**

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Learn about French, build your own sentences and pronounce words correctly.

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### **Travel Phrases**

Ready-made phrases for every situation buy a ticket, book a hotel and much more.













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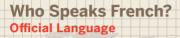


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Widely Understood Algeria - Andorra - Egypt Lebanon - Mauritania - Mauritius - Morocco - Tunisia

#### Why Bother

You may be told of a cosy 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* me·new is a set lunch, not a menu (which is *carte* kart 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* voo and *tu* tew respectively); it distinguishes between masculine and feminine forms of words, eg *beau/belle* bo/bel m/f (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**

What are the opening hours?
Quelles sont les heures d'ouverture?
kel son lay zer doc 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 plait. 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.

Which wine would you recommend?
Quel vin vous conseillez?
kel vun voo kon-sav-vav

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

Can I address you with 'tu'?
Est-ce que je peux vous tutoyer?
es ker zher per voo tew-twa-vav

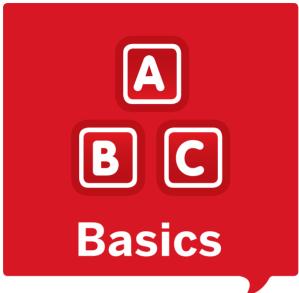
Before you start addressing someone with the informal 'vou' form, it's polite to ask permission first.

Do you have plans for tonight/tomorrow? Vous avez prévu quelque chose ce soir/demain? voo za·vay pray·vew 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.

# 10 Phrases to Sound Like a Local

Cool! Génial! zhav·nyal No worries. Pas de soucis. pa der soo see Sure. D'accord. da kor No way! Pas question! pa kay-styon **Just joking! Je plaisante!** zher play zont Too bad. Tant pis. tom pee What a shame. Quel dommage. kel do mazh What's up? Qu'est-ce qu'il y a? kes keel ya Well done! Bien joué! byun zhoo·ay **Not bad.** Pas mal. pa mal



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# Understanding

## **KEY PHRASES**

Do you speak English?

I don't understand.

What does (that) mean? Vous parlez anglais?

Je ne comprends pas. Ou'est-ce aue

(ca) yeut dire?

voo par·lay ong-glay

zher ner kom·pron pa kes-ker sa ver deer

Vous parlez anglais? la 👩 Do you speak English? Je parle un peu.

I speak a little. 1b 👩 Do you

understand?

1c A I understand.

1d A I don't understand.

I need an interpreter who speaks English.

I'd like to practice French.

2a What does (that) mean?

2b How do you pronounce this? voo par·lay ong·glay

zher parl um per Vous comprenez? voo kom·prer·nay

Je comprends. zher kom·pron

Je ne comprends pas. zher ner kom pron pa

J'ai besoin d'un interprète de langue anglaise. zhay ber-zwun dun nun-tair-pret

der long ong glav zer Je voudrais parler en français.

zher voo-dray par-lay on fron-say Qu'est-ce que (ça) veut dire? kes-ker sa ver deer

Comment ça se prononce? ko·mon sa se pro·nons

# **Numbers & Amounts**

### **KEY PHRASES**

How many/much? Combien? kom-byun

all tout too none rien ryun

## **Cardinal Numbers**

3a 0	zéro	zay·ro
3b 1	un	un
3c 2	deux	der
3d 3	trois	trwa
3e 4	quatre	ka·trer
3f 5	cinq	sungk
3g 6	six	sees
3h 7	sept	set
3i 8	huit	weet
3j 9	neuf	nerf
3k 10	dix	dees
11	onze	onz
12	douze	dooz
13	treize	trez
14	quatorze	ka·torz
15	quinze	kunz
16	seize	sez
17	dix-sept	dee·set
18	dix-huit	dee·zweet