



# French

PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY

## Acknowledgments

**Editors** Laura Crawford, Samantha Forge, Robyn Loughnane, Branislava Vladisavljevic, Tracy Whitmey

**Production Support** Chris Love

**Language Writers** Michael Janes, Jean-Pierre Masclef, Jean-Bernard Carillet

**CD Production** Labsonics

**Cover Researcher** Naomi Parker

---

## Thanks

James Hardy, Angela Tinson

---

## Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

3rd Edition – October 2015

ISBN 978 1 74360 369 7

Text © Lonely Planet 2015

**Cover image** Inside a French cafe, Jupiter Images/Getty

Printed in China 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

---

**Contact** [lonelyplanet.com/contact](http://lonelyplanet.com/contact)

---

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trade marks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: [www.lonelyplanet.com/ip](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/ip)

---

Although the authors and Lonely Planet try to make the information as accurate as possible, we accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by anyone using this book.

---

Paper in this book is certified against the Forest Stewardship Council™ standards. FSC™ promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



## 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

### Language Tip

An insight into the foreign language

### CULTURE TIP

### 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

# Contents

PAGE

6



## About French

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

Introduction .....	6
Top Phrases .....	8
Pronunciation .....	10
Grammar .....	14

PAGE

27

## Travel Phrases

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



### Basics

27

Understanding .....	28
Numbers & Amounts .....	31
Time & Dates .....	33



### Practical

37

Transport .....	38
Border Crossing .....	50
Directions .....	52
Accommodation .....	55
Shopping .....	67
Communications .....	76
Money & Banking .....	83
Business .....	86

Sightseeing .....	88
Senior & Disabled Travellers.....	93
Travel with Children.....	95



## **Social** ..... **97**

Meeting People.....	98
Interests .....	108
Feelings & Opinions.....	112
Going Out .....	117
Romance .....	124
Beliefs & Culture.....	130
Sports.....	132
Outdoors .....	137



## **Safe Travel** ..... **141**

Emergencies .....	142
Police .....	144
Health .....	146



## **Food** ..... **155**

Eating Out .....	156
Self-Catering.....	169
Vegetarian & Special Meals.....	174

**PAGE**

**178**



## **Menu Decoder**

Dishes and ingredients explained – order with confidence and try new foods.

**PAGE**

**196**



## **Two-Way Dictionary**

Quick reference vocabulary guide – 3500 words to help you communicate.

<b>English–French Dictionary</b> .....	196
<b>French–English Dictionary</b> .....	233

Index .....	268
-------------	-----

## INTRO

## French

français fron·say

## Who Speaks French?

## Official Language

## CARIBBEAN

FRENCH GUIANA  
GUADELOUPE  
MARTINIQUE  
HAITI

## EUROPE

FRANCE  
SWITZERLAND  
LUXEMBOURG  
BELGIUM  
MONACOSOUTH  
PACIFICFRENCH POLYNESIA  
NEW CALEDONIA  
WALLIS & FUTUNA  
VANUATUCANADA  
(QUEBEC)

## AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF  
CONGO • GABON • CENTRAL  
AFRICAN REPUBLIC • CHAD  
NIGER • MALI • BURKINA FASO  
CÔTE D'IVOIRE • TOGO • BENIN  
CAMEROON • CONGO • RWANDA  
BURUNDI • SENEGAL • GUINEA  
COMOROS • MAYOTTE  
MADAGASCAR • RÉUNION  
SEYCHELLES • DJIBOUTI  
GABON

**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](http://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

- 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 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.

- 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·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!** :: zhay·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



A

B

C

# Basics

<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>NUMBERS &amp; AMOUNTS</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>TIME &amp; DATES</b>	<b>33</b>

# Understanding

## KEY PHRASES

**Do you speak English?**

Vous parlez anglais?

voo par-lay ong-glai

**I don't understand.**

Je ne comprends pas.

zher ner kom-pron pa

**What does (that) mean?**

Qu'est-ce que (ça) veut dire ?

kes-ker sa ver deer

**1a** **Q** **Do you speak English?**

Vous parlez anglais?  
voo par-lay ong-glai

**A** **I speak a little.**

Je parle un peu.  
zher parl um per

**1b** **Q** **Do you understand?**

Vous comprenez?  
voo kom-prer-nay

**1c** **A** **I understand.**

Je comprends.  
zher kom-pron

**1d** **A** **I don't understand.**

Je ne comprends pas.  
zher ner kom-pron pa

**I need an interpreter who speaks English.**

J'ai besoin d'un interprète de langue anglaise.  
zhay ber-zwun dun nun-tair-pret der long ong-glai-zer

**I'd like to practice French.**

Je voudrais parler en français.  
zher voo-dray par-lay on-fron-say

**2a** **What does (that) mean?**

Qu'est-ce que (ça) veut dire?  
kes-ker sa ver deer

**2b** **How do you pronounce this?**

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

# Numbers & Amounts

## KEY PHRASES

<b>How many/much?</b>	Combien?	kom·byun
<b>all</b>	tout	too
<b>none</b>	rien	ryun

## Cardinal Numbers

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