



≡ *Fast Talk*

French

Guaranteed to get you talking

Contents

Before You Go 4

Chatting & Basics 9

Essentials	9	Feelings	16
Language Difficulties	10	Numbers	17
Greetings	11	Time	19
Titles	12	Days	19
Introductions	12	Months	20
Personal Details	13	Dates	21
Age	14	Weather	22
Occupations & Study	15	Directions	22
Interests	16		

Airport & Transport..... 24

At the Airport	24	Bus & Train	28
Getting Around	25	Taxi	29
Buying Tickets	26	Car & Motorbike	30
Luggage	28	Cycling	31

Accommodation 32

Finding Accommodation	32	Complaints	36
Booking & Checking In	33	Checking Out	37
Requests & Questions	34		

Eating & Drinking..... 38

Meals	38	Alcoholic Drinks	44
Finding a Place to Eat	39	In the Bar	45
Ordering & Paying	40	Buying Food	46
Special Diets & Allergies	42	Menu Decoder	47
Nonalcoholic Drinks	44		

Sightseeing 52

Planning	52	Galleries & Museums	54
Questions	53	Tours	55
Getting In	54		

Shopping 57

Looking For	57	Clothes & Shoes	60
In the Shop	57	Books & Reading	61
Paying & Bargaining	59	Music & DVDs	62

Entertainment 63

Going Out	63	Meeting Up	65
-----------------	----	------------------	----

Practicalities 66

Banking	66	Emergencies	70
Phone/Mobile Phone	67	Police	72
Internet	68	Health	72

Dictionary 75

English to French	75	French to English	84
-------------------------	----	-------------------------	----

≡ *Special Features*

5 Phrases
To Learn Before You Go... 6

10 Phrases
To Sound Like a Local 7

10 Phrases
To Start a Sentence..... 8

10 Phrases
To Get You Talking 96

Before You Go

Many visitors to France get around without speaking a word of French, but just a few phrases go a long way in making friends, inviting service with a smile, and ensuring a rich and rewarding travel experience – you could discover a cosy vineyard off the tourist track, experience a sublime meal, or grab that great shopping bargain.

PRONUNCIATION TIPS

The sounds of French can almost all be found in English, and if you read our coloured pronunciation guides as if they were English you'll be understood.

★ The few sounds that do differ from English include the throaty **r** (a bit like a growl) and **ew** (said as the 'ee' in 'see' with rounded lips). Note also that **zh** is pronounced as the 's' in 'pleasure'.

★ French has nasal vowels (pronounced as if you're trying to force the sound 'through the nose'). English is similar to some extent – eg when you say 'sing', the 'i' is nasalised

by the 'ng'. We've used nasal consonant sounds (**m**, **n**, **ng**) after the nasal vowel so you can produce the sound with confidence.

★ Syllables in French are, for the most part, equally stressed – as English speakers tend to stress the first syllable, try adding a light stress on the final syllable of French words to compensate.

MUST-KNOW GRAMMAR

The structure of French holds no major surprises for English speakers since the two languages are quite closely related.

★ French has a formal and informal word for 'you' (*vous* **voo** and *tu* **tew** respectively). When talking to someone familiar or younger than you, use the *tu* form. Phrases in this book use the form that is appropriate to the situation. Where both forms can be used, they are indicated by **pol** and **inf** respectively.

★ French has masculine and feminine forms of words, eg *beau/belle* **bo/bel** (beautiful), indicated in this book by **m** and **f** respectively.

★ Verbs have a different ending for each person, like the English 'I do' vs 'he/she does'. You'll still be understood if you use the dictionary form of a verb in all contexts.

SOUNDS FAMILIAR?

Many French words are part of the English vocabulary – thanks to the Norman invasion of England in the 11th century, some estimate that three-fifths of everyday English vocabulary arrived via French. You'll recognise *café*, *déjà vu*, *rendez-vous*, *cliché* ...

Fast Talk French

Don't worry if you've never learnt French (*français* **fron-say**) before – it's all about confidence. You don't need to memorise endless grammatical details or long lists of vocabulary – you just need to start speaking. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain when the locals hear you making an effort. And remember that body language and a sense of humour have a role to play in every culture.

“you just need to start speaking”

Even if you use the very basics, such as greetings and civilities, your travel experience will be the better for it. Once you start, you'll be amazed how many prompts you'll get to help you build on those first words. You'll hear people speaking, pick up sounds and expressions from the locals, catch a word or two that you know from TV already, see something on a billboard – all these things help to build your understanding.

5.

Phrases to Learn Before You Go

1. What are the opening hours?

Quelles sont les heures d'ouverture?

kel zon 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?

Vous avez prévu quelque chose ce soir?

voo za-vay pray-vew kel-ker shoz ser swar

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·mash

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

10.

Phrases
to Start a Sentence**When is
(the tour)?**C'est quand (l'excursion)?
say kon (leks-kewr-syon)**Where is
(the station)?**Où est (la gare)?
oo-ay (la gar)**Where can I
(buy a ticket)?**Où peut-on (acheter un billet)?
oo per-ton (ash-tay um bee-yay)**Do you have
(a map)?**Avez-vous (une carte)?
a-vay-voo (ewn kart)**Is there
(a toilet)?**Y a-t-il (des toilettes)?
ya-teel (day twa-let)**I'd like
(a coffee).**Je voudrais (un café).
zher voo-dray (ung ka-fay)**I'd like to
(return this).**Je voudrais (rapporter ceci).
zher voo-dray (ra-port-ay ser-see)**Can I (enter)?**Puis-je (entrer)?
pweezh (on-tray)**Do I have to
(book a seat)?**Faut-il (réserver une place)?
fo-teel (ray-zair-vay ewn plas)**Can you (write
down the price)?**Pouvez-vous (écrire le prix)?
poo-vay voo (ay-kreer ler pree)

Chatting & Basics

≡ Fast Phrases

Hello./Goodbye.

Bonjour./Au revoir.
bon-zhoor/o rer-vwar

Please./Thank you.

S'il vous plaît./Merci.
seel voo play/mair-see

Do you speak English?

Parlez-vous anglais?
par-lay-voo ong·glay

Essentials

Yes.

Oui.
wee

No.

Non.
non

Please.

S'il vous plaît.
seel voo play

Thank you (very much).

Merci (beaucoup).
mair-see (bo-koo)

You're welcome.

Je vous en prie.
zher voo zon-pree

Excuse me.

Excusez-moi.
ek-skew-zay-mwa

Sorry.

Pardon.
par-don