**FAUX AMIS (**[**WWW.ABOUT.COM**](http://WWW.ABOUT.COM)**) FALSE FRIENDS.**

**Abandon** (F) **vs Abandon** (E)  
  
**Abandon** (F) is a noun that means *abandonment*, *desertion*, *neglect*, or *giving up*. It can also mean *abandon*, especially with a verb: danser avec abandon - *to dance with abandon.* Abandonner = *to abandon*.  
**Abandon** (E) = *abandon*.  
  
  
**Habileté** (F) **vs Ability** (E)  
  
**Habileté** (F) refers to a *skill*, *cleverness*, a *talent*, or a *skillful move*.  
**Ability** (E) is a similar but weaker term, translatable by une *aptitude*, une *capacité*, or une *compétence*.  
  
  
**Abus** (F) **vs Abuse** (E)  
  
**Abus** (F) can mean *abuse*, *excess*, or *injustice*.  
**Abuse** (E) = *abus*, while verbal abuse is des *injures* or *insultes*.  
  
  
**Abuser** (F) **vs Abuse** (E)  
  
**Abuser** (F) means to *exploit*, *abuse*, *take advantage of*, *deceive*, or *mislead*. S'abuser means *to be mistaken* or *to delude oneself*.  
**Abuse** (E) can be translated by *abuser*, *injurier*, *insulter*, or *maltraiter*.  
  
  
**Accéder** (F) **vs Accede** (E)  
  
**Accéder** (F) means to *reach*, *attain*, *get to*, *access*.  
**Accede** (E) has three different meanings. (1) to agree/accept: *agréer*, *accepter*. (2) to take on a new position: *entrer en possession/fonction*. (3) to join: *adhérer*, *se joindre*.  
  
  
**Accidenté** (F) **vs Accidental** (E)  
  
**Accidenté** (F) can be an adjective: *hilly*, *undulating*, or *damaged* - or a noun: *casualty*, *injured person*. Accidenter means to *injure* or *damage*.  
**Accidental** (E) means *accidentel* (bad) or *fortuit* (good).  
  
  
**Achèvement** (F) **vs Achievement** (E)  
  
**Achèvement** (F) refers to the *completion* or *culmination* of something.  
**Achievement** (E) has a more positive sense of attaining something that was sought after: *exploit*, *réussite*, *accomplissement*.  
  
  
**Achever** (F) **vs Achieve** (E)  
  
**Achever** (F) usually means to *finish*, *end*, *complete*, *reach*. It can also be more figurative: *to finish off*, *destroy*, *kill*.  
**Achieve** (E) = *accomplir*, *réaliser*, *atteindre*.  
  
  
**Acompte** (F) **vs Account** (E)  
  
**Acompte** (F) refers to a *deposit*, *down payment*, or *installment*.  
**Account** (E) = un *compte*.  
  
  
**Action** (F) **vs Action** (E)  
  
**Action** (F) can mean *action* as well as *act* or a *share of stock*.  
**Action** (E) = *action* or *effet*.  
  
  
**Actuellement** (F) **vs Actually** (E)  
  
**Actuellement** (F) means *at the present time*, and should be translated as *currently* or *right now*. Je travaille actuellement - *I am currently working*. A related word is **actuel**, which means *present* or *current*: le problème actuel - the *current/present problem*.  
**Actually** (E) means "in fact" and should be translated as *en fait* or *à vrai dire*. Actually, I don't know him - *En fait, je ne le connais pas*. **Actual** means real or true, and depending on the context can be translated as *réel*, *véritable*, *positif*, or *concret*: The actual value - la *valeur réelle*.  
  
  
**Adepte** (F) **vs Adept** (E)  
  
**Adepte** (F) is a noun: *follower* or *enthusiast*.  
**Adept** (E) is an adjective: *compétent* or *expert*.  
  
  
**Addition** (F) **vs Addition** (E)  
  
**Addition** (F) can refer to *addition*, a *sum*, or a restaurant *check* or *bill*.  
**Addition** (E) = une *addition*, une *augmentation*, or un *surcroît*.  
  
  
**Ado** (F) **vs Ado** (E)  
  
**Ado** (F) is an [apocope](http://french.about.com/library/writing/bl-apocopes.htm) of adolescent - *teen* or *teenager*.  
**Ado** (E) is a somewhat rare word that is equivalent to *agitation* or *bruit* (figuratively)  
  
  
**Adresse** (F) **vs Address** (E)  
  
**Adresse** (F) can refer to a *mailing*, *email*, or *spoken address* or to *deftness*, *skill*, or *dexterity*.  
**Address** (E) = une *adresse* or un *discours*.  
  
  
**Affaire** (F) **vs Affair** (E)  
  
**Affaire** (F) can mean *business*, *matter*, *deal*, *transaction*, or *scandal*.  
**Affair** (E) is the equivalent of affaire only in the sense of an event or concern. A love affair is une *liaison*, une *affaire d'amour*, or une *aventure amoureuse*.  
  
  
**Affluence** (F) **vs Affluence** (E)  
  
**Affluence** (F) is a *crowd of people*: Il y avait une affluence attendant à la porte - *There were crowds waiting at the door*.  
**Affluence** (E) indicates a lot of something (usually wealth): There's an affluence of information here - *Il y a une abondance d'information ici*. His affluence is obvious - *Sa richesse est évidente*.

**Agenda** (F) **vs Agenda** (E)  
  
**Agenda** (F) refers to a *datebook*.  
**Agenda** (E) means l'*ordre du jour* or le *programme*.  
  
  
**Agonie** (F) **vs Agony** (E)  
  
**Agonie** (F) refers to *death pangs* or *mortal agony*.  
**Agony** (E) means severe physical or mental pain, but not necessarily just this side of death: *angoisse, supplice*.  
  
  
**Agréable** (F) **vs Agreeable** (E)  
  
**Agréable** (F) means *pleasant* or *nice* when describing a thing, such as the weather or situation. It's not used to describe people other than in the construction *être agréable de sa personne* - to be pleasant-looking/personable.  
**Agreeable** (E) does not normally mean *agréable*, but rather "in agreement," which doesn't have an exact equivalent in French. I'm agreeable to doing it - *Je le ferai volontiers*. If that's agreeable/acceptable - *S'il n'y a pas d'inconvénient*, *Si cela vous convient*.  
  
  
**Agrément** (F) **vs Agreement** (E)  
  
**Agrément** (F) refers to *charm*, *attractiveness*, or *pleasantness*.  
**Agreement** (E) = *accord* or *harmonie*.  
  
  
**Aimer** (F) **vs Aim** (E)  
  
**Aimer** (F) means *to like* or *to love*.  
**Aim** (E) can be a noun - *but*, *visées* - or a verb - *braquer*, *pointer*, *viser*.  
  
  
**Allée** (F) **vs Alley** (E)  
  
**Allée** (F) is a generic term for any sort of road or path: *lane*, *path*, *avenue*, *driveway*, etc. It can also refer to an *aisle*.  
**Alley** (E) = une *ruelle*.  
  
  
**Allure** (F) **vs Allure** (E)  
  
**Allure** (F) normally refers to *speed* or *pace*: rouler à toute allure - to drive at full speed. It can also refer to an *appearance* or *look*. Allures refers to *behavior* or *ways*.  
**Allure** (E) indicates *charm* or *attrait*.  
  
  
**Altérer** (F) **vs Alter** (E)  
  
**Altérer** (F) can mean *alter*, but it nearly always has a negative connotation: *distort*, *falsify*, *tamper with*, *spoil*, *debase*.  
**Alter** (E) = *changer*, *modifier*, *transformer*, etc.  
  
  
**Amateur** (F) **vs Amateur** (E)  
  
**Amateur** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It can mean *amateur* in the sense of non-professional, but it can also mean a *lover* of something: un amateur d'art - an *art lover*.  
**Amateur** (E) refers to someone who dabbles in a trade or activity: an amateur photographer: un *amateur de photographie*.  
  
  
**Amitié** (F) **vs Amity** (E)  
  
**Amitié** (F) is the generic French word for *friendship*.  
**Amity** (E) is used more specifically to mean peaceful relations between nations - *concorde* or *bons rapports*.  
  
  
**Ancien** (F) **vs Ancient** (E)  
  
**Ancien** (F) can mean *old* in the sense of not young as well as in the sense of *former*: mon ancien professeur - *my old (former) teacher*, mon professeur ancien - *my old (aged) teacher*. Learn more about [adjectives](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/adjectives_4.htm).  
**Ancient** (E) means *antique* or *très vieux*.  
  
  
**animation** (F) **vs animation** (E)  
  
**animation** (F) is much more general in French than in English. In addition to *animation, life, liveliness*, it can also refer to cultural or sports *activities* as well as *leadership*.  
**animation** (E) means *animation* or *vivacité*.  
  
  
**Antique** (F) **vs Antique** (E)  
  
**Antique** (F) as an adjective means *antique* or *ancient*. As a noun, it refers to *antiquity* or *classical art/style*.  
**Antique** (E) means the same an adjective, but as a noun it refers to *une antiquité*, *un objet d'art ancien*, or *un meuble ancien*.  
  
  
**Apologie** (F) **vs Apology** (E)  
  
**Apologie** (F) has three different meanings. The original meaning of *defense* or *plea* is related to the judiciary meaning of *vindication* or *justification*. The current and most common meaning is *praise*.  
**Apology** (E) = les *excuses*.  
  
  
**Appareil** (F) **vs Apparel** (E)  
  
**Appareil** (F) is an *apparatus*, *device*, or *appliance*.  
**Apparel** (E) is an out-dated term for clothing: *habillement*.  
  
  
**Are** (F) **vs Are** (E)  
  
**Are** (F) refers to an *area of one hundred square meters*.  
**Are** (E) is a conjugation of "to be" (*être*): we are (*nous sommes*), you are (*vous êtes*), they are (*ils sont*).  
  
  
**Argument** (F) **vs Argument** (E)  
  
**Argument** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It means *argument* in the sense of a mathematical or philosophical argument. Also: argument massue - *sledgehammer blow*; argument publicitaire - *advertising claim*; argument de vente - *selling point*.  
**Argument** (E) is une *discussion*, une *conversation*, un *débat*, or une *dispute*.  
  
  
**Arriver** (F) **vs Arrive** (E)  
  
**Arriver** (F) can mean to *arrive* or to *happen*, while arriver à + verb means to *succeed in* doing or to *manage to* do something.  
**Arrive** (E) is translated by *arriver*.  
  
  
**Arroser** (F) **vs Arose** (E)  
  
**Arroser** (F) means to *water* or *spray*.  
**Arose** (E) is the past participle of arise: *survenir*, *se présenter*, *s'élever*.  
  
  
**Assistance** (F) **vs Assistance** (E)  
  
**Assistance** (F) is a semi-false cognate. Its primary meaning is *audience*.  
**Assistance** (E) indicates *help* or *aid*.  
  
  
**Assister** (F) **vs Assist** (E)  
  
**Assister** (F) is nearly always followed by **à** and means to *attend* something: J'ai assisté à la conférence - I *attended (went to)* the conference.  
**Assist** (E) means to help or aid someone or something: I assisted the woman into the building - J'ai *aidé* la dame à entrer dans l'immeuble.  
  
  
**Assumer** (F) **vs Assume** (E)  
  
**Assumer** (F) only means to *assume* in the sense of taking on responsibility or assuming control. It also means to *hold a job* or *fulfill a role*.  
**Assume** (E) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *assumer*, it can also mean *supposer* or *présumer*.  
  
  
**Assurance** (F) **vs Assurance** (E)  
  
**Assurance** (F) refers to *self-confidence* or *insurance* in addition to *assurance*.  
**Assurance** (E) means *assurance* or *conviction*.  
  
  
**Attendre** (F) **vs Attend** (E)  
  
**Attendre** (F) à means to *wait for*: Nous avons attendu pendant deux heures - *We waited for two hours*.  
**Attend** (E) is translated by *assister* (see above): I attended the conference - *J'ai assisté à la conférence*.  
  
  
**Audience** (F) **vs Audience** (E)  
  
**Audience** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to the meaning of the English word, it can signify: Votre audience, s'il vous plaît - *Your attention, please*. Ce projet a une large audience - *This project has a lot of attention*. Donner audience à quelqu'un - *To meet with / listen to someone*. Une audience publique - *A public meeting*.  
**Audience** (E) is a group of spectators or listeners.  
  
  
**Avertissement** (F) **vs Advertisement** (E)  
  
**Avertissement** (F) is a *warning* or *caution*, from the verb avertir - to *warn*.  
**Advertisement** (E) is une *publicité*, une *réclame*, or un *spot publicitaire*.

**Bachelier** (F) **vs Bachelor** (E)  
  
**Bachelier** (F) refers to a *person who has passed the bac*. Feminine - une **bachelière**.  
**Bachelor** (E) = un *célibataire*  
  
  
**Bail** (F) **vs Bail** (E)  
  
**Bail** (F) is a *lease*; the plural is **baux**.  
**Bail** (E) is une *caution*, (out) on bail is *sous caution*.  
  
  
**Balance** (F) **vs Balance** (E)  
  
**Balance** (F) is a pair of *scales* or *weighing machine*. It can also refer to an economic balance.  
**Balance** (E) can be all of the above, plus *équilibre* or *aplomb*.  
  
  
**Ballot** (F) **vs Ballot** (E)  
  
**Ballot** (F) means a *bundle* or *package*.  
**Ballot** (E) refers to a *bulletin de vote* (the paper upon which one votes) or a *scrutin* (the method of voting).  
  
  
**Baraque** (F) **vs Barracks** (E)

**Baraque** (F) is a *shed* or *hut*, and can be used informally to refer to a house as a *shack*, *dump*, or *hole*. Familiarly, it can also refer to a *burly guy*.  
**Barracks** (E) = *une caserne*.  
  
  
**Basque** (F) **vs Basque** (E)  
  
**Basque** (F) refers to the *tails* of a tuxedo jacket. In both French and English, Basque also refers to Basque country as well as its people and language.  
**Basque** (E) = une *guêpière*.  
  
  
**Bât** (F) **vs Bat** (E)  
  
**Bât** (F) is a *packsaddle*. It's also found in the figurative expression C'est là où le bât blesse - *There's the rub.*  
**Bat** (E) is une *chauve-souris*, une *batte*, or une *raquette*.  
  
  
**Batterie** (F) **vs Battery** (E)  
  
**Batterie** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It is equivalent to the English word in all senses, but it can also refer to a *set of drums* or the *percussion instruments* in a band.  
**Battery** (E) refers to an electrical device that provides power as well as military weapons: a battery of artillery - *une batterie de canons*.  
  
  
**Belle** (F) **vs Bell** (E)  
  
**Belle** (F) is the feminine form of the adjective **beau**, meaning *beautiful*. It can also be used as a noun: **une belle** = *beautiful woman*.  
**Bell** (E) = *une cloche, un grelot, une sonnette*.  
  
  
**Biais** (F) **vs Bias** (E)  
  
**Biais** (F) is a general term for *way* or *means*, and can also mean *angle* in the sense of looking at an issue from a particular angle. Par le biais de - *through*, *by means of*. Le biais = *bias* only when referring to fabric (coupé dans le biais - *cut on the bias*).  
**Bias** (E) = *tendance*, *inclination*, *penchant*, *préjugé*.  
  
  
**Bigot** (F) **vs Bigot** (E)  
  
**Bigot** (F) as an adjective means *sanctimonious* or *holier-than-thou*. As a noun = person who is sanctimonious or holier-than-thou.  
**Bigot** (E) is equivalent to *fanatique* or *sectaire*.  
  
  
**Biologique** (F) **vs Biological** (E)  
  
**Biologique** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *biological*, it can also mean *organic*, as in farming done without pesticides.  
**Biological** (E) = *biologique*.  
  
  
**Black** (F) **vs Black** (E)  
  
**Black** (F) is an informal noun/adjective for black people: un/e black - *a black person*, la musique black - *black music*.  
**Black** (E) = *noir*.  
  
  
**Blanc** (F) **vs Blank** (E)  
  
**Blanc** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It is usually the French word for the [color](http://french.about.com/library/begin/bl_colors.htm) *white* but can in some instances be translated by *blank*: une feuille blanche - a *blank sheet of paper*.  
**Blank** (E) is an adjective meaning *blanc*, *vierge*, or *vide*.  
  
  
**Blesser** (F) **vs Bless** (E)  
  
**Blesser** (F) means to *wound*, *injure*, or *offend*.  
**Bless** (E) means *bénir*.  
  
  
**Blinder** (F) **vs Blinder/Blind** (E)  
  
**Blinder** (F) means to *armor* or to *shore up*. Informally, it means to *harden* or *make immune*. Familiarly, it means to *get drunk*.  
**Blinder/Blind** (E) is une *œillère*. Blind means *aveugle*.  
  
  
**Bond** (F) **vs Bond** (E)  
  
**Bond** (F) refers to a *leap* or *jump*. Bondir - *to jump*.  
**Bond** (E) can mean un *engagement*, une *obligation*, or un *lien*. To bond - *coller*.  
  
  
**Bout** (F) **vs Bout** (E)  
  
**Bout** (F) means *end*, *tip*, or *bit*.  
**Bout** (E) refers to une *crise* (de rheumatisme) or un *combat*.  
  
  
**Bras** (F) **vs Bras** (E)  
  
**Bras** (F) is an *arm*.  
**Bras** (E) is the plural of bra - *soutien-gorge*.  
  
  
**Brave** (F) **vs Brave** (E)  
  
**Brave** (F) means *brave* when it follows the noun it modifies, but *good* or *decent* when it precedes it.[Position of adjectives](http://french.about.com/library/weekly/bl-fickleadjectives.htm)  
**Brave** (E) = *brave* or, more commonly, *courageux*.  
  
  
**Bribe** (F) **vs Bribe** (E)  
  
**Bribe** (F) refers to a *bit* or *scrap* of something.  
**Bribe** (E) as a noun is un *pot-de-vin*, to bribe = *acheter (le silence de) quelqu'un*, *suborner*, *soudoyer*.  
  
  
**Bride** (F) **vs Bride** (E)  
  
**Bride** (F) refers to a *bridle*.  
**Bride** (E) is une *mariée*.  
  
  
**Bureau** (F) **vs Bureau** (E)  
  
**Bureau** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It can refer to a *desk* or an *office*, as well as a *department*: Bureau européen de l'environnement - European Environment Office.  
**Bureau** (E) can also mean a certain department, especially in government. In British English, a bureau has the same sense of desk as in French, but in American English a bureau is a chest of drawers: *commode*.

**Caméra** (F) **vs Camera** (E)  
  
**Caméra** (F) is a *movie camera*.  
**Caméra** (E) = un *appareil photo*.  
  
  
**Canal** (F) **vs Canal** (E)  
  
**Canal** (F) can refer to a *canal*, a *channel*, or an *intermediary*.  
**Canal** (E) = un *canal* or un *conduit*.  
  
  
**Candide** (F) **vs Candid** (E)  
  
**Candide** (F) means *naïve* or *ingenuous*.  
**Candid** (E) means open or frank: *franc, sincère*.  
  
  
**Car** (F) **vs Car** (E)  
  
**Car** (F) is most often used as a conjunction: *because* or *for*. As a noun, it refers to a *coach* or *bus*.  
**Car** (E) is une *voiture*.  
  
  
**Caractère** (F) **vs Character** (E)  
  
**Caractère** (F) refers only to the *character* or *temperament* of a person or thing: Cette maison a du caractère - This house has character.  
**Character** (E) can mean *nature*/*temperament*: Education develops character - *L'éducation développe le caractère*, as well as a fictional character in a book, play, movie, etc.: Romeo is a famous character - *Romeo est un personnage célèbre*.  
  
  
**Carton** (F) **vs Carton** (E)  
  
**Carton** (F) is a semi-false cognate. While it can refer to a *box*, it can also mean simply *cardboard*. It can also indicate a *target*, *sketch*, or *card*.  
**Carton** (E) can be a *pot*, *carton*, *boîte*, *brick*, or *cartouche*.  
  
  
**Case** (F) **vs Case** (E)  
  
**Case** (F) is a *square* or a *box* (e.g., on a form), a *compartment*, or a *hut*.  
**Case** (E) can refer to un *cas*, un *procès*, or une *valise*.  
  
  
**Caution** (F) **vs Caution** (E)  
  
**Caution** (F) is a financial term; it can mean *guarantee*, *security*, *bail*, or *backing*.  
**Caution** (E) indicates *prudence*, *circonspection*, or *avertissement*.  
  
  
**Cave** (F) **vs Cave** (E)  
  
**Cave** (F) = *cellar*, *basement*, *vault*.  
**Cave** (E) = une *caverne*, une *grotte*.  
  
  
**Ceinture** (F) **vs Century** (E)  
  
**Ceinture** (F) is a *belt*.  
**Century** (E) is un *siècle*.  
  
  
**Célibataire** (F) **vs Celibate** (E)  
  
**Célibataire** (F) as a noun means a *bachelor*, as an adjective can mean *celibate* or simply *single*/*unmarried*.  
**Celibate** (E) is the adjective *célibataire*.  
  
  
**Cent** (F) **vs Cent** (E)  
  
**Cent** (F) is the French word for a *hundred*.  
**Cent** (E) can be figuratively translated by un *sou*. Literally, it is one hundredth of a dollar.  
  
  
**Chagrin** (F) **vs Chagrin** (E)  
  
**Chagrin** (F) refers to *sorrow* or *grief*.  
**Chagrin** (E) means annoyance or embarrassment: *la contrariété, la gêne*.  
  
  
**Chaîne** (F) **vs Chain** (E)  
  
**Chaîne** (F) can refer to a *chain*, a *production line*, a *TV channel*, or a *stereo*.  
**Chain** (E) can be a noun - une *chaîne*, or a verb - *enchaîner*.  
  
  
**Chair** (F) **vs Chair** (E)  
  
**Chair** (F) means *flesh*.  
**Chair** (E) can be une *chaise*, un *fauteuil* (armchair), or un *siège* (seat).  
  
  
**Champ** (F) **vs Champ** (E)  
  
**Champ** (F) refers to a *field* (in all senses), while champs = *country(side)*.  
**Champ** (E) is an informal abbreviation for champion - un *champion*.  
  
  
**Chance** (F) **vs Chance** (E)  
  
**Chance** (F) means *luck*.  
**Chance** (E) refers to un *hasard*, une *possibilité*, or une *occasion*.  
  
  
**Charge** (F) **vs Charge** (E)  
  
**Charge** (F) as a noun can mean *burden*, *load*, *cargo*, *responsibility*. The verb charger means to *load* or to *charge*.  
**Charge** (E) the noun can mean *inculpation*, *accusation*, or *attaque*. The verb to charge can mean *accuser* or *faire payer*.  
  
  
**Chat** (F) **vs Chat** (E)  
  
**Chat** (F) is the French word for *cat*.  
**Chat** (E) is both a noun and a verb: *bavarder/bavardage* or *discuter/discussion*.  
  
  
**Chope** (F) **vs Chop** (E)  
  
**Chope** (F) is a *mug* or *pint*.  
**Chop** (E) can be a noun - une *côtelette*, un *coup* - or a verb - *trancher*, *couper*, *hacher*.  
  
  
**Choir** (F) **vs Choir** (E)  
  
**Choir** (F) is an old-fashioned or archaic verb which means *to fall*.  
**Choir** (E) indicates un *choeur* or une *chorale*.  
  
  
**Christian** (F) **vs Christian** (E)  
  
**Christian** (F) is a masculine French name ([learn more](http://french.about.com/library/travel/bl-fr-names-m.htm)), while  
**Christian** (E) = (un) *chrétien* ([not capitalized](http://french.about.com/library/writing/bl-capitalization.htm)).  
  
  
**Chute** (F) **vs Chute** (E)  
  
**Chute** (F) refers to a *fall*, *loss*, *collapse*, or *failure*.  
**Chute** (E) is une *glissière*.

**Circulation** (F) **vs Circulation** (E)  
  
**Circulation** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to the circulation of air, water, etc., it can mean *traffic*.  
**Circulation** (E) means *circulation* or *propagation*.  
  
  
**Client** (F) **vs Client** (E)  
  
**Client** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *client*, it can refer to a *customer*, *patron*, or *patient*.  
**Client** (E) is a *client*.  
  
  
**Coin** (F) **vs Coin** (E)  
  
**Coin** (F) refers to a *corner* in every sense of the English word. It can also be used figuratively to mean area: l'épicier du coin - *the local grocer*.  
**Coin** (E) is a piece of metal used as money - *une pièce de monnaie*.  
  
  
**Collège** (F) **vs College** (E)  
  
**Collège** (F) refers to *junior high school*: Mon collège a 1 000 élèves - *My junior high school has 1,000 students*.  
**College** (E) is translated by *université* : This college's tuition is very expensive - *Les frais de scolarité à cette université sont très élevés*.  
  
  
**Combinaison** (F) **vs Combination** (E)  
  
**Combinaison** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It can refer to a *slip*, *overalls*, or a *ski-suit*.  
**Combination** (E) is equivalent to the French in virtually all senses of the word. In British English, Combination can also refer to un *side-car*.  
  
  
**Combine** (F) **vs Combine** (E)  
  
**Combine** (F) is an informal term for a *trick* or *scheme*.  
**Combine** (E) can be translated by une *association*, une *corporation*, or, in agriculture, une *moissoneuse-batteuse*. To combine = *combiner* or *joindre*.  
  
  
**Comédien** (F) **vs Comedian** (E)  
  
**Comédien** (F) can refer to any *actor*, not just a comedian/comedy actor. It can also indicate a *sham* or *show-off*.  
**Comedian** (E) is a *comédien* or *comique*.  
  
  
**Commander** (F) **vs Command** (E)  
  
**Commander** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It means to *order* (a command) as well as to order a meal or goods/services. Une commande is an *order*.  
**Command** (E) can be translated by *commander*, *ordonner*, or *exiger*. It is also a noun: *ordre* or *commandement*.  
  
  
**Comme** (F) **vs Come** (E)  
  
**Comme** (F) means *like* or *as*.  
**Come** (E) Come is the verb *venir*.  
  
  
**Comment** (F) **vs Comment** (E)  
  
**Comment** (F) is an adverb meaning *how* or *what*: Comment vas-tu ? - *How are you?* Comment t'appelles-tu ? - *What is your name?*  
**Comment** (E) is *une observation* or *un commentaire*.  
  
  
**Commode** (F) **vs Commode** (E)  
  
**Commode** (F) as an adjective means *convenient* or *handy*; as a noun it indicates a *chest of drawers*.  
**Commode** (E) rarely means a chest of drawers, in American English it usually refers to a toilet: *toilettes* or *cabinets*. In British English, it means a special chair with a hole, under which is a chamber pot (normally used by disabled persons): *une chaise percée*.  
  
  
**Commodité** (F) **vs Commodity** (E)  
  
**Commodité** (F) means *convenience*: les commodités de la vie moderne - the conveniences of modern life.  
**Commodity** (E) refers to a product for trade, goods: *produit*, *article*, *denrée* (latter refers only to food).  
  
  
**Complet** (F) **vs Complete** (E)  
  
**Complet** (F) is an adjective: *complete*, *comprehensive*, *full*, *total*. The feminine form is complète. It is also the noun for a men's *suit*.  
**Complete** (E) is an adjective: *complet*, *terminé*. It is also a verb: *compléter*, *finir*, *remplir*.  
  
  
**Compréhensif** (F) **vs Comprehensive** (E)  
  
**Compréhensif** (F) can mean *comprehensive* as well as *understanding* or *tolerant*.  
**Comprehensive** (E) has many meanings: *détaillé*, *complet*, *étendu*, *global*, or *compréhensif*.  
  
  
**Compromis** (F) **vs Compromise** (E)  
  
**Compromis** (F) = a *compromise*, while the expression compromis de vente refers to a *provisional sales agreement*. As an adjective (past participle of compromettre), it means *compromised* in both the positive and negative sense (We have compromised with our friends and Our mission has been compromised).  
**Compromise** (E) refers to un *compromis* or une *transaction*. As a verb, it means *compromettre*, *transiger*, *aboutir à/accepter un compromis*.  
  
  
**Con** (F) **vs Con** (E)  
  
**Con** (F) is a vulgar word that literally refers to *female genitalia*. It usually means an *idiot*, but can also be used as an adjective in the sense of *damned* or *bloody*.  
**Con** (E) can be a noun - la *frime*, une *escroquerie*, or a verb - *duper*, *escroquer*.  
  
  
**Concerner** (F) **vs Concern(ed)** (E)  
  
**Concerner** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It means to concern only in the sense of *to affect* or *to have to do with*: Cela ne vous concerne pas - *This doesn't concern/affect you*. Thus concerné means *affected by*, not concerned about something.  
**Concern** (E) is a noun means *rapport*, *affaire*, *souci*, *intérêt*, etc. As a verb, it can mean *concerner*/*toucher* as well as *inquiéter* or *préoccuper*.  
  
  
**Concierge** (F) **vs Concierge** (E)  
  
**Concierge** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to the *concierge* of a hotel, it can refer to the *caretaker* of a building or apartment house.  
**Concierge** (E) is a member of hotel staff.  
  
  
**Concret** (F) **vs Concrete** (E)  
  
**Concret** (F) is an adjective which means *concrete* (in the sense of *real*/*tangible* or *made of concrete*). Feminine version: concrète.  
**Concrete** (E) can be an adjective or a noun: le *béton*.

**Conducteur** (F) **vs Conductor** (E)  
  
**Conducteur** (F) is the general French term for a *driver*. In terms of electricity, it is both a noun - *conductor* and an adjective - *conductive*, *conducting*.  
**Conductor** (E) refers to un *contrôleur* or un *chef d'orchestre*.  
  
  
**Conférence** (F) **vs Conference** (E)  
  
**Conférence** (F) is a *lecture* or *conference*.  
**Conference** (E) is une *conférence*, un *congrès*, or une *assemblée*.  
  
  
**Confiance** (F) **vs Confidence** (E)  
  
**Confiance** (F) can refer to *confidence* or *trust*.  
**Confidence** (E) means *confiance*, while self-confidence is *assurance*.  
  
  
**Confident** (F) **vs Confident** (E)  
  
**Confident** (F) is a noun, the French equivalent of *confidant* - someone you tell all your secrets and private matters.  
**Confident** (E) is an adjective; the French equivalents are *confiant*, *assuré*, *sûr*, and *persuadé*.  
  
  
**Confortable** (F) **vs Comfortable** (E)  
  
**Confortable** (F) = *comfortable* for a place or thing.  
**Comfortable** (E) can also be used for people, but in French this would be translated as *à l'aise* or *bien*.  
  
  
**Confus** (F) **vs Confused** (E)  
  
**Confus** (F) means *ashamed*, *embarrassed*, *disorganized*, or *uncertain*.  
**Confused** (E) means *désorienté*, *déconcerté*, *confondu*, or *embrouillé*.  
  
  
**Conseil/Conseiller** (F) **vs Counsel** (E)  
  
**Conseil/Conseiller** (F) can refer to a *hint* or *piece of advice*; a *consultant* or *adviser*; or a *board*, *committee*, or *council*. Conseiller means to *recommend*, *advise*, or *counsel*.  
**Counsel** (E) is a noun: une *consultation*, un *conseil*, une *déliberation*, un *avocat* (in formal English) and a verb: *conseiller*, *recommander*.  
  
  
**Consumer** (F) **vs Consume** (E)  
  
**Consumer** (F) means to *consume* only as a fire or as ambition consumes.  
**Consume** (E) usually refers to eating or drinking something: *consommer*.  
  
  
**Contrée** (F) **vs Country** (E)  
  
**Contrée** (F) refers only to the physical boundaries of a piece of *land* or a *region*.  
**Country** (E) can indicate un *pays*, une *patrie*, or la *campagne*.  
  
  
**Contrôle** (F) **vs Control** (E)  
  
**Contrôle** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It usually refers to an *inspection*, *verification*, or *test*, but it can in some cases indicate *self-control* or *control of a vehicle*.  
**Control** (E) indicates power over someone (including oneself) or something.  
  
  
**Corde** (F) **vs Cord** (E)  
  
**Corde** (F) refers to *rope* or a *string* on a musical instrument.  
**Cord** (E) = un *cordon*.  
  
  
**Corporation** (F) **vs Corporation** (E)  
  
**Corporation** (F) can refer to a *corporate body*, *guild*, or, in general terms, *profession*.  
**Corporation** (E) is une *société commerciale*, *société à responsabilité limitée*, or *compagnie commerciale*. In the UK, it can also refer to un *conseil municipal*.  
  
  
**Corps** (F) **vs Corps** (E)  
  
**Corps** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to a *body of people* like Corps de la Paix - *Peace Corps*, **corps** can mean (human) [body](http://french.about.com/library/begin/bl_body.htm) or corpse.  
**Corps** (E) refers to un *corps* of people.  
  
  
**Correspondance** (F) **vs Correspondence** (E)  
  
**Correspondance** (F) can mean *correspondence*, *conformity*, *balance*, or a travel *connection*.  
**Correspondence** (E) means *correspondance*.  
  
  
**Courageux** (F) **vs Courageous** (E)  
  
**Courageux** (F) can mean *courageous*, but is also used to mean *up to* or not lazy: Je ne suis pas courageux - *I don't feel up to it*; Sois courageux ! - *Don't be lazy!*  
**Courageous** (E) = *courageux*.  
  
  
**Course** (F) **vs Course** (E)  
  
**Course** (F) means *running*, une course is a *trip*, *journey*, or *race*.  
**Course** (E) refers to un *cours* or une *route*. Of course = *bien sûr*.  
  
  
**Courtisan** (F) **vs Courtesan** (E)  
  
**Courtisan** (F) is a *courtier* or *sycophant*.  
**Courtesan** (E) is une *courtisane*.  
  
  
**Crâne** (F) **vs Crane** (E)  
  
**Crâne** (F) means *skull* as a noun and *gallant* as an adjective.  
**Crane** (E) = une *grue* (both the bird and the machine).  
  
  
**Crayon** (F) **vs Crayon** (E)  
  
**Crayon** (F) is a *pencil*.  
**Crayon** (E) translates as un *crayon de couleur*. The French language uses this expression for both crayon and colored pencil.  
  
  
**Crier** (F) **vs Cry** (E)  
  
**Crier** (F) means to *scream* or *shout*.  
**Cry** (E) as a verb means *pleurer*; as a noun it is un *cri*.  
  
  
**Crise** (F) **vs Crisis** (E)  
  
**Crise** (F) is a semi-false cognate; it has several meanings in addition to the English sense of *crisis*: une crise d'asthme- an asthma attack, une crise de colère - a fit of anger, une crise économique - an economic slump.  
**Crisis** (E) refers to an extremely serious event: crisis management - *gestion de crise*.  
  
  
**Crispé** (F) **vs Crisp** (E)  
  
**Crispé** (F) means *tensed* or *flexed*, from the verb crisper.  
**Crisp** (E) is used mainly with food: *croquant* or *croustillant*.  
  
  
**Cuisine** (F) **vs Cuisine** (E)  
  
**Cuisine** (F) is the *kitchen* or *cooking*.  
**Cuisine** (E) is just a fancy word for the cooking of a particular region ~ *cuisine* in French

**Dalle** (F) **vs Dale** (E)  
  
**Dalle** (F) is a *paving stone*, and is also used in some [familiar expressions](http://french.about.com/library/vocab/argot/bl-argot-d.htm).  
**Dale** (E) refers to une *vallée* or un *vallon*.  
  
  
**Dame** (F) **vs Dame** (E)  
  
**Dame** (F) = a *lady*.  
**Dame** (E) is much less polite: une *fille* or une *nana*.  
  
  
**Date** (F) **vs Date** (E)  
  
**Date** (F) is the same as *date* only in terms of calendar dates.  
**Date** (E) can also refer to the fruit (une *datte*) or un *rendez-vous*.  
  
  
**Décade** (F) **vs Decade** (E)  
  
**Décade** (F) is a period of *ten days*.  
**Decade** (E) is a period of ten years: une *décennie* or simply *dix ans*.  
  
  
**Déception** (F) **vs Deception** (E)  
  
**Déception** (F) means *disappointment* or *let-down*.  
**Deception** (E) is une *tromperie* or *duperie*.  
  
  
**Décevoir** (F) **vs Deceive** (E)  
  
**Décevoir** (F) means to *disappoint*: Il va te décevoir - *He's going to disappoint you*.  
**Deceive** (E) means to deliberately trick or lead someone astray: I didn't mean to deceive you - *Je n'avais pas l'intention de te tromper*.  
  
  
**Défaut** (F) **vs Default** (E)  
  
**Défaut** (F) is a *flaw*, *fault*, *drawback*, or *lack*.  
**Default** (E) is un *défaut* in judiciary proceedings. To default = *manquer à ses engagements* or *prendre une valeur par défaut*.  
  
  
**Défendre** (F) **vs Defend** (E)  
  
**Défendre** (F) can mean to *defend* or to *forbid* (défense de fumer - *no smoking*).  
**Defend** (E) means *défendre*.  
  
  
**Défi** (F) **vs Defy** (E)  
  
**Défi** (F) is a noun: *defiance* or *challenge*.  
**Defy** (E) is the verb *défier* or *braver*.  
  
  
**Défiler** (F) **vs Defile** (E)  
  
**Défiler** (F) means to *march past*: les visiteurs défilaient devant le musée - The visitors marched past the museum. It can mean to *unthread* (a needle): Je dois défiler l'aiguille - *I need to unthread the needle*.  
**Defile** (E) is to dirty or deface something or to ruin someone's name: It's wrong to defile a great man - *C'est mal de profaner un grand homme*.  
  
  
**Délai/Délayer** (F) **vs Delay** (E)  
  
**Délai** (F) is a *time limit* or *deadline*: dans un délai de 15 jours - within two weeks. **Délayer** (F) means to *water down* or *thin*, as in cooking or mixing paint.  
**Delay** (E) has a slightly negative connotation - it indicates that the time was unexpected and is usually translated by *retard* : They arrived with an hour's delay - *Ils sont arrivés avec une heure de retard*.  
  
  
**Délit** (F) **vs Delight** (E)  
  
Un **délit** (F) = *crime*, *offense*, *abuse*, or *misdemeanor*.  
**Delight** (E) = *un grand plaisir*, *une joie*, *un délice*.  
  
  
**Délivrer** (F) **vs Deliver** (E)  
  
**Délivrer** (F) means *to set free*, *to rid someone of*, or *to issue*.  
**Deliver** (E) = *livrer*, *remettre*, or *distribuer*.  
  
  
**Demander** (F) **vs Demand** (E)  
  
**Demander** (F) means to *ask for*: Il m'a demandé de chercher son pull - He asked me to look for his sweater.  
**Demand** (E) is usually translated by *exiger*: He demanded that I look for his sweater - *Il a exigé que je cherche son pull*.  
  
  
**Démenti** (F) **vs Demented** (E)  
  
**Démenti** (F) refers to a *denial* or *refutation* (démentir - *to deny*, *refute*).  
**Demented** (E) can mean *dément*, *en démence*, *fou*, or *insensé*.  
  
  
**Déranger** (F) **vs Derange** (E)  
  
**Déranger** (F) in addition to *derange* (the mind), déranger means to *bother*, *disturb*, or *disrupt*.  
**Derange** (E) is used only when talking about mental health (usually as an adjective: deranged = *dérangé*).  
  
  
**Dérogation** (F) **vs Derogation** (E)  
  
**Dérogation** (F) is a *special dispensation* or *exemption*.  
**Derogation** (E) refers to une *atteinte* or une *réduction*.  
  
  
**Dérogatoire** (F) **vs Derogatory** (E)  
  
**Dérogatoire** (F) means *dispensatory* or *exceptional* (being an exception).  
**Derogatory** (E) = *désobligeant*, *dénigrant*, *péjoratif*.  
  
  
**Dessiner** (F) **vs Design** (E)  
  
**Dessiner** (F) usually means to *draw*, but can also mean to *lay out* or *design*.  
**Design** (E) is a noun: un *design*, un *stylisme*, un *plan* - and a verb: *concevoir*, *élaborer*.  
  
  
**Détail** (F) **vs Detail** (E)  
  
**Détail** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *detail*, it can refer to *retail*.  
**Detail** (E) means *détail* or *renseignements*.  
  
  
**Devise** (F) **vs Devise** (E)  
  
**Devise** (F) refers to *currency* or a *slogan*/*motto*.  
**Devise** (E) is a verb: *imaginer*, *concevoir*.  
  
  
**Diligent** (F) **vs Diligent** (E)  
  
**Diligent** (F) is an archaic semi-false cognate - it meant *diligent* at one time and *speedy* or *prompt* at another.  
**Diligent** (E) means *appliqué*, *assidu*, or *laborieux*.  
  
  
**Dire** (F) **vs Dire** (E)  
  
**Dire** (F) means *to say* or *to tell*.  
**Dire** (E) is an adjective which means *affreux*, *terrible*, or *extrême*.  
  
  
**Dispenser** (F) **vs Dispense** (E)  
  
**Dispenser** (F) means to *exempt* or *excuse*.  
**Dispense** (E) can be translated by *distribuer* or *offrir*.  
  
  
**Disposer** (F) **vs Dispose** (E)  
  
**Disposer** (F) means to *arrange*, to *incline/dispose someone to*, or (formally) to *leave*. **Disposer de** (F) means to *have (at one's disposal)*.  
**Dispose of** (E) = *se débarasser de*, *éliminer*, *jeter*, *renvoyer*.  
  
  
**Divers** (F) **vs Divers** (E)  
  
**Divers** (F) means *diverse*, *varied*, or *several*.  
**Divers** (E) is the plural of diver - *plongeur*.  
  
  
**Dot** (F) **vs Dot** (E)  
  
**Dot** (F) is a *dowry*.  
**Dot** (E) is un *point* or un *pois*.  
  
  
**Douche** (F) **vs Douche** (E)  
  
**Douche** (F) is a *shower*.  
**Douche** (E) refers to a method of cleaning a body cavity with air or water: *lavage interne*.  
  
  
**Douter** (F) **vs Doubt** (E)  
  
**Douter** (F) means to *doubt* or *be doubtful about*, while se douter means to *suspect* or *imagine*.  
**Doubt** (E) = le *doute*, l'*incertitude*, *douter*  
  
  
**Draguer** (F) **vs Drag** (E)  
  
**Draguer** (F) informally means to *flirt*. Formally, it means to *fish with a dragnet* or to *dredge*.  
**Drag** (E) means *traîner* or *tirer*.

**Éducation** (F) **vs Education** (E)  
  
**Éducation** (F) usually refers to education at home: *upbringing*, *manners*.  
**Education** (E) is a general term for formal learning = *instruction*, *enseignement.*  
  
  
**Éligible** (F) **vs Eligible** (E)  
  
**Éligible** (F) means *eligible* only for membership or an elected office.  
**Eligible** (E) is a much more general term: *éligible* or *admissible*. To be eligible = *avoir droit à*, *remplir/satisfaire les conditions requises pour*.  
  
  
**Émail** (F) **vs Email** (E)  
  
**Émail** (F) refers to *enamel*.  
**Email** (E) is often translated as un *email*, but the accepted French term is un *courriel* ([learn more](http://french.about.com/b/a/007936.htm)).  
  
  
**Embarras** (F) **vs Embarrass** (E)  
  
**Embarras** (F) indicates *trouble* or *confusion* as well as *embarrassment*.  
**Embarrass** (E) is a verb: *embarrasser*, *gêner*.  
  
  
**Embrasser** (F) **vs Embrace** (E)  
  
**Embrasser** (F) means to *kiss*, or can be used formally to mean to *espouse*.  
**Embrace** (E) means *étreindre* or *enlacer*.  
  
  
**Émergence** (F) **vs Emergency** (E)  
  
**Émergence** (F) is the equivalent of the English words *emergence* or *source*.  
**Emergency** (E) is un *cas urgent* or un *imprévu*.  
  
  
**Employer** (F) **vs Employer** (E)  
  
**Employer** (F) is a verb - to *use*, *employ*.  
**Employer** (E) is a noun - un *patron*, un *employeur*.  
  
  
**Enchanté** (F) **vs Enchanted** (E)  
  
**Enchanté** (F) means *enchanted* or *delighted*, and is most commonly used upon meeting someone, the way "It's nice to meet you" is used in English.  
**Enchanted** (E) = *enchanté*, but the English word is much less common than the French.  
  
  
**Enfant** (F) **vs Infant** (E)  
  
**Enfant** (F) means *child*.  
**Infant** (E) refers to un *nouveau-né* or un *bébé*.  
  
  
**Engagement** (F) **vs Engagement** (E)  
  
**Engagement** (F) has many meanings: *commitment*, *promise*, *agreement*; (finance) *investing*, *liabilities*; (negotiations) *opening*, *start*; (sports) *kick-off*; (contest) *entry*. It never means a marital engagement.  
**Engagement** (E) usually indicates one's engagement to be married: *les fiançailles*. It can also refer to *un rendez-vous* or *une obligation*.  
  
  
**Engrosser** (F) **vs Engross** (E)  
  
**Engrosser** (F) is a familiar verb meaning *to knock up, get someone pregnant*.  
**Engross** (E) means *absorber, captiver*.  
  
  
**Enthousiaste** (F) **vs Enthusiast** (E)  
  
**Enthousiaste** (F) can be a noun - *enthusiast*, or an adjective - *enthusiastic*.  
**Enthusiast** (E) is only a noun - *enthousiaste*.  
  
  
**Entrée** (F) **vs Entrée** (E)  
  
**Entrée** (F) is another word for *hors-d'oeuvre*; an *appetizer*.  
**Entrée** (E) refers to the main course of a meal: *le plat principal*.  
  
  
**Envie** (F) **vs Envy** (E)  
  
**Envie** (F) "Avoir envie de" means to *want* or to feel like something: Je n'ai pas envie de travailler - *I don't want to work (feel like working)*. The verb envier, however, does mean to *envy*.  
**Envy** (E) means to be jealous or desirous of something belonging to another. The French verb is *envier*: I envy John's courage - *J'envie le courage à Jean*.

**Escroc** (F) **vs Escrow** (E)  
  
**Escroc** (F) refers to a *crook* or *swindler*.  
**Escrow** (E) means un *dépôt fiduciaire* or *conditionnel*.  
  
  
**Étiquette** (F) **vs Etiquette** (E)  
  
**Étiquette** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *etiquette* or *protocole*, it can be a *sticker* or *label*.  
**Etiquette** (E) can mean *étiquette*, *convenances*, or *protocole*.  
  
  
**Éventuel** (F) **vs Eventual** (E)  
  
**Éventuel** (F) means *possible*: le résultat éventuel - the *possible outcome*.  
**Eventual** (E) describes something that will happen at some unspecified point in the future; it can be translated by a relative clause like *qui s'ensuit* or *qui a résulté* or by an adverb like *finalement*.  
  
  
**Éventuellement** (F) **vs Eventually** (E)  
  
**Éventuellement** (F) means *possibly*, *if need be*, or *even*: Vous pouvez éventuellement prendre ma voiture - You can even take my car / You can take my car if need be.  
**Eventually** (E) indicates that an action will occur at a later time; it can be translated by *finalement*, *à la longue*, or *tôt ou tard* : I will eventually do it - *Je le ferai finalement / tôt ou tard*.  
  
  
**Évidence** (F) **vs Evidence** (E)  
  
**Évidence** (F) refers to *obviousness*, an *obvious fact*, or *prominence*.  
**Evidence** (E) means le *témoignage* or la *preuve*.  
  
  
**Évident** (F) **vs Evident** (E)  
  
**Évident** (F) usually means *evident* or *obvious*, and there is a familiar expression that always catches me: ce n'est pas évident - *it's not that simple*.  
**Evident** (E) means *évident* or *manifeste*.  
  
  
**Évincer** (F) **vs Evince** (E)  
  
**Évincer** (F) means to *oust*, *supplant*, or *evict*.  
**Evince** (E) = *manifester* or *faire preuve de*.  
  
  
**Exceptionnel** (F) **vs Exceptional** (E)  
  
**Exceptionnel** (F) can mean either *exceptional* or *special* in the sense of out-of-the-ordinary, unexpected.  
**Exceptional** (E) means *exceptionnel*.  
  
  
**Expérience** (F) **vs Experience** (E)  
  
**Expérience** (F) is a semi-false cognate, because it means both *experience* and *experiment*: J'ai fait une expérience - *I did an experiment*. J'ai eu une expérience intéressante - *I had an interesting experience*.  
**Experience** (E) can be a noun or verb refering to something that happened. Only the noun translates into *expérience* : Experience shows that ... - *L'expérience démontre que...* He experienced some difficulties - *Il a rencontré des difficultés*.  
  
  
**Expérimenter** (F) **vs Experiment** (E)  
  
**Expérimenter** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It is equivalent to the English verb, but also has the added sense of to *test* an apparatus.  
**Experiment** (E) as a verb means to test hypotheses or ways of doing things. As a noun, it is equivalent to the French word *expérience* (see above).  
  
  
**Exploitation** (F) **vs Exploitation** (E)  
  
**Exploitation** (F) can mean either *usage* or *exploitation*.  
**Exploitation** (E) is translated by *exploitation*, but it always has a negative connotation in English, unlike the French which can simply refer to usage

**Fabrique** (F) **vs Fabric** (E)  
  
**Fabrique** (F) is a *factory*. De bonne fabrique means *good workmanship*.  
**Fabric** (E) is equivalent to *tissu* or *étoffe*. When speaking figuratively, e.g., the fabric of society, the French word is *structure*.  
  
  
**Facilité** (F) **vs Facility** (E)  
  
**Facilité** (F) means *ease*, *easiness*, *ability*, or *aptitude*.  
**Facility** (E) is a semi-false cognate. It usually refers to a structure that serves a particular function, although it can mean easiness, aptitude, etc.  
  
  
**Façon** (F) **vs Fashion** (E)  
  
**Façon** (F) means *way*, as in voilà la façon dont il procède - this is the way he does it. It can be translated by *fashion* when it is synonymous with *way* or *manner*, as in à ma façon - *in my fashion / my way*.  
**Fashion** (E) is a style or custom, usually in clothing: *mode* or *vogue*. For all of you apple pie eaters out there, now you know that *à la mode* really means in fashion.  
  
  
**Facteur** (F) **vs Factor** (E)  
  
**Facteur** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *factor*, it can mean *postman*, *mailman*, or *maker* - un facteur de pianos - *piano maker*.  
**Factor** (E) = un *facteur*, un *élément*, un *indice*.  
  
  
**Fastidieux** (F) **vs Fastidious** (E)  
  
**Fastidieux** (F) means *tedious*, *tiresome*, or *boring*  
**Fastidious** (E) means attentive to detail or exacting: *minutieux*, *méticuleux*, *tatillon*.  
  
  
**Fendre** (F) **vs Fend** (E)  
  
**Fendre** (F) means to *split* or to *chop*.  
**Fend** (E) is *se débrouiller*, to fend off means *parer* or *détourner*.  
  
  
**Figure** (F) **vs Figure** (E)  
  
**Figure** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It is the French word for *face*, but can also refer to an *illustrated* or *mathematical figure*.  
**Figure** (E) refers to numbers *chiffres* as well as to the form of a person's body: *forme*, *silhouette*.  
  
  
**File/Filer** (F) **vs File** (E)  
  
**File** (F) is a *line* or *queue*. **Filer** (F) means to *spin* (e.g., cotton or thread) or to *prolong*.  
**File** (E) can refer to une *lime* (as well as the verb *limer*), un *dossier*, or un *classeur* (and the verb *classer*).  
  
  
**Film** (F) **vs Film** (E)  
  
**Film** (F) refers to a *movie*.  
**Film** (E) can mean un *film* as well as la *pellicule*.  
  
  
**Finalement** (F) **vs Finally** (E)  
  
**Finalement** (F) means *eventually* or *in the end*.  
**Finally** (E) is *enfin* or *en dernier lieu*.  
  
  
**Flemme** (F) **vs Phlegm** (E)  
  
**Flemme** (F) is an informal word for *laziness*. It's commonly used in the expressions "avoir la flemme" (J'ai la flemme d'y aller - *I can't be bothered to go*) and "tirer sa flemme" - *to loaf about*.  
**Phlegm** (E) = la *mucosité*.  
  
  
**Flirter** (F) **vs Flirt** (E)  
  
**Flirter** (F) may mean *to flirt* or *to go out with/date someone*.  
**Flirt** (E) is *flirter* or, informally, *draguer*.  
  
  
**Fluide** (F) **vs Fluid** (E)  
  
**Fluide** (F) can be a noun: *fluid*, or an adjective: *fluid*, *flowing*, *flexible*. Il a du fluide - *He has mysterious powers*.  
**Fluid** (E) means *fluide* or *liquide*.  
  
  
**Fond** (F) **vs Fond** (E)  
  
**Fond** (F) is a noun: *bottom* or *back*.  
**Fond** (E) is an adjective: to be fond of - *aimer beaucoup*, *avoir de l'affection pour*.  
  
  
**Football** (F) **vs Football** (E)  
  
**Football** (F) or le foot, refers to *soccer* (in American English).  
**Football** (E) = le *football américain*.  
  
  
**Forcément** (F) **vs Forcefully** (E)  
  
**Forcément** (F) means *inevitably* or *necessarily*.  
**Forcefully** (E) can be translated by *avec force* or *avec vigueur*.  
  
  
**Forfait** (F) **vs Forfeit** (E)  
  
**Forfait** (F) is a *fixed*, *set*, or *all-inclusive price*; a *package deal*; or, in sports, a *withdrawal*.  
**Forfeit** (E) as a noun indicates un *prix*, une *peine*, or un *dédit*.  
  
  
**Formation** (F) **vs Formation** (E)  
  
**Formation** (F) refers to *training* as well as *formation/forming*.  
**Formation** (E) means *formation* or *création*.  
  
  
**Format** (F) **vs Format** (E)  
  
**Format** (F) means *size*.  
**Format** (E) as a noun refers to *présentation*; as a verb it means *formater* or *mettre en forme*.  
  
  
**Formel** (F) **vs Formal** (E)  
  
**Formel** (F) usually means *categoric*, *strict*, or *definite*, but may be translated by *formal* in linguistics, art, and philosophy.  
**Formal** (E) = *officiel* or *cérémonieux*.  
  
  
**Formidable** (F) **vs Formidable** (E)  
  
**Formidable** (F) is an interesting word, because it means *great* or *terrific*; almost the opposite of the English. Ce film est formidable ! - *This is a great movie!*  
**Formidable** (E) means dreadful or fearsome: The opposition is formidable - *L'opposition est redoutable/effrayante*.  
  
  
**Fort** (F) **vs Fort** (E)  
  
**Fort** (F) is an adjective: *strong* or *loud* as well as a noun - *fort*.  
**Fort** (E) refers to un *fort* or *fortin*.  
  
  
**Four** (F) **vs Four** (E)  
  
**Four** (F) is an *oven*, *kiln*, or *furnace*.  
**Four** (E) = *quatre*.  
  
  
**Fourniture** (F) **vs Furniture** (E)  
  
**Fourniture** (F) means *supplying* or *provision*. It's from the verb **fournir**: to *supply* or *provide*.  
**Furniture** (E) refers to *meubles* or *moblier*.  
  
  
**Foyer** (F) **vs Foyer** (E)  
  
**Foyer** (F) can mean *home*, *family*, or *fireplace* as well as a *foyer*.  
**Foyer** (E) is un *foyer*, un *hall*, or un *vestibule*.  
  
  
**fraîche** (F) **vs fresh** (E)  
  
**fraîche** (F) is the feminine form of the adjective **frais**, which means both *fresh* and *cool*. So this tends to be problem for native French speakers, who often translate **boissons fraîches** as "fresh drinks," when what they really mean is *cool drinks*.  
**fresh** (E) = *frais, récent, nouveau*.  
  
  
**Friction** (F) **vs Friction** (E)  
  
**Friction** (F) can refer to a *massage* in addition to *friction*.  
**Friction** (E) = la *friction*.  
  
  
**Fronde** (F) **vs Frond** (E)  
  
**Fronde** (F) is a *sling*, *slingshot*, or *catapult*; a *revolt*; or a *frond*.  
**Frond** (E) = une *fronde* or une *feuille*.  
  
  
**Front** (F) **vs Front** (E)  
  
**Front** (F) means *front* as well as *forehead*.  
**Front** (E) = le *front* or *avant*.  
  
  
**Futile** (F) **vs Futile** (E)  
  
**Futile** (F) can mean *futile* but is more likely to be *frivolous* or *trivial*.  
**Futile** (E) is nearly always translated by *vain*.

**Gave** (F) **vs Gave** (E)  
  
**Gave** (F) refers to a *mountain stream*.  
**Gave** (E) is the simple past of to give - *donner.*  
  
  
**Gendre** (F) **vs Gender** (E)  
  
**Gendre** (F) is a *son-in-law*.  
**Gender** (E) is either le *genre* (in grammar) or le *sexe* (in biology).  
  
  
**Gentil** (F) **vs Gentle** (E)  
  
**Gentil** (F) usually means *nice* or *kind*: Il a un gentil mot pour chacun - *He has a kind word for everyone*. It can also mean good, as in il a été gentil - *he was a good boy*.  
**Gentle** (E) can also mean kind, but in the more physical sense of soft or not rough. It can be translated by *doux*, *aimable*, *modéré*, or *léger*: He is gentle with his hands - *Il a la main douce*. A gentle breeze - *une brise légère*.  
  
  
**Gardien** (F) **vs Guardian** (E)  
  
**Gardien** (F) is a very general term that can indicate anyone who guards someone or something: *warden*, *keeper*, *guard*, *attendant*, *caretaker*. It can also be figurative.  
**Guardian** (E) is more specific: *gardian*, *protecteur*, *tuteur*.  
  
  
**Germain** (F) **vs German** (E)  
  
**Germain** (F) is used in the expression "cousins issus de germains" = *second cousins*.  
**German** (E) = *allemand*, *Allemand* ([languages + nationalities](http://french.about.com/library/begin/bl-languages.htm)).  
  
  
**Glace** (F) **vs Glass** (E)  
  
**Glace** (F) can refer to *ice*, *ice cream*, a *mirror*, or *sheet glass.*  
**Glass** (E) can mean un *verre* or une *vitre*.  
  
  
**Glas** (F) **vs Glass** (E)  
  
**Glas** (F) refers to the *knell* or *toll of a bell*, as well as a figurative *knell*.  
**Glass** (E) = *verre*.  
  
  
**Gommer** (F) **vs Gum** (E)  
  
**Gommer** (F) means to *erase*, *rub out*, *take away*, or *exfoliate*. It can mean to gum as in to *put gum on*.  
**Gum** (E) as a verb means *gommer* only in the sense of putting gum on, but the more typical French verb for that meaning is *coller*.  
  
  
**Grade** (F) **vs Grade** (E)  
  
**Grade** (F) means *rank* (in administration), *degree* (in academia), or *grade* (in math).  
**Grade** (E) refers to *qualité* or *calibre*. In referring to school in the US, grade can indicate une *note* (how well you did in a class: A, B+, etc) or une *année* (e.g., first grade).  
  
  
**Grand** (F) **vs Grand** (E)  
  
**Grand** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It means both *great* (e.g., un grand homme - a great man) and *large* or *tall*: elle est grande - *she's tall*, une grande quantité - *a large quantity*.  
**Grand** (E) is a very versatile term. It can mean large or impressive in size, scope, or extent, which is often translated as *important* in French; rich and sumptuous - *grandiose, majestueux*; or, especially in Ireland, great, as in "we had a grand time" - *c'était formidable*.  
  
  
**Grappe** (F) **vs Grape** (E)  
  
**Grappe** (F) is a *cluster*: une grappe de raisins - *a bunch of grapes*, grappes humaines - *clusters of people*.  
**Grape** (E) is *un raisin*.  
  
  
**Gratuité** (F) **vs Gratuity** (E)  
  
**Gratuité** (F) refers to anything that is given for *free*: la gratuité de l'éducation - *free education*.  
**Gratuity** (E) is un *pourboire* or une *gratification*.  
  
  
**Grief** (F) **vs Grief** (E)  
  
**Grief** (F) Un grief is a *grievance*: Il me fait grief d'être au chômage - *He holds my unemployed status against me*.  
**Grief** (E) refers to great sadness or chagrin: I'd never felt such grief - *Je n'ai jamais senti une telle douleur*.  
  
  
**Groom** (F) **vs Groom** (E)  
  
**Groom** (F) = *bellboy*.  
**Groom** (E) (horses) - le *valet d'écurie*; (wedding) - le *marié*.  
  
  
**Gros** (F) **vs Gross** (E)  
  
**Gros** (F) means *big*, *fat*, *heavy*, or *serious*: un gros problème - *a big/serious problem*.  
**Gross** (E) means *grossier*, *fruste*, or (informally) *dégueullasse*.  
  
  
**Guy** (F) **vs Guy** (E)  
  
**Guy** (F) This word comes from Guillaume, the French equivalent of the name *Bill* - [more French names](http://french.about.com/library/travel/bl-fr-names-m.htm)  
**Guy** (E) means un *mec*, *gars*, or *type*.

**Habileté** (F) **vs Ability** (E)  
  
**Habileté** (F) refers to a *skill*, *cleverness*, a *talent*, or a *skillful move*.  
**Ability** (E) is a similar but weaker term, translatable by une *aptitude*, une *capacité*, or une *compétence*.  
  
  
**Habit** (F) **vs Habit** (E)  
  
**Habit** (F) means one's *dress* or *outfit*; **habits** means *clothes*.  
**Habit** (E) refers to something a person does regularly, even to the point of addiction: *habitude*, *coutume*. It can also refer to a nun's outfit: *habit de religieuse*.  
  
  
**Haineux** (F) **vs Heinous** (E)  
  
**Haineux** (F) is from haine - *hatred*. It means *malevolent* or *full of hatred*.  
**Heinous** (E) means atrocious/horrific: *odieux, atroce, abominable*.  
  
  
**Hasard** (F) **vs Hazard** (E)  
  
**Hasard** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *hazard*, it can mean *coincidence*, *chance* (e.g., a chance meeting), or *fate*. Par hasard - by chance.  
**Hazard** (E) refers to un *risque*, *danger*, or *péril*.  
  
  
**Héroïne** (F) **vs Heroine** (E)  
  
**Héroïne** (F) refers to a *heroine* as well as the drug *heroin*.  
**Heroine** (E) = *héroïne*.  
  
  
**Hisser** (F) **vs Hiss** (E)  
  
**Hisser** (F) means to *hoist*, *heave*, *haul up*.  
**Hiss** (E) = *siffler* or *chuinter*.  
  
  
**Histoire** (F) **vs History** (E)  
  
**Histoire** (F) can refer to *history* or just a *story*.  
**History** (E) = *history*.  
  
  
**Homme** (F) **vs Home** (E)  
  
**Homme** (F) is a *man*.  
**Home** (E) = *maison*, *foyer*, or *chez-soi*.  
  
  
**Humeur** (F) **vs Humor** (E)  
  
**Humeur** (F) refers to *mood* or *temperament*.  
**Humor** (E) = *humour* or *comique*.

**Ici** (F) **vs Icy** (E)  
  
**Ici** (F) means *here*.  
**Icy** (E) means *glacial*, *glacé*, or *verglacé*.  
  
  
**Idéologie** (F) **vs Ideology** (E)  
  
**Idéologie** (F) can refer to an *ideology*, but is usually used in a pejorative sense: ideology or philosophy based on *sophomoric* or *illogical arguments*.  
**Ideology** (E) = une *idéologie*.  
  
  
**Ignorant** (F) **vs Ignorant** (E)  
  
**Ignorant** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It usually means *unaware of*, although it can mean *ignorant* (E). It can also be a noun - *ignoramus*.  
**Ignorant** (E) has only one French equivalent - *ignorant*, but in English it is usually somewhat pejorative: lacking education or knowledge. The French word *ignorant* doesn't distinguish between unaware and uneducated.  
  
  
**Ignorer** (F) **vs Ignore** (E)  
  
**Ignorer** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It nearly always means to be *ignorant* (E) or *unaware* of something: j'ignore tout de cette affaire - I know nothing about this business.  
**Ignore** (E) means to deliberately not pay attention to someone or something. The usual translations are *ne tenir aucun compte de*, *ne pas relever*, and *ne pas prêter attention à*.  
  
  
**Impair** (F) **vs Impair** (E)  
  
**Impair** (F) is an adjective: *odd* or *uneven*.  
**Impair** (E) is a verb: *diminuer* or *affaiblir*.  
  
  
**Important** (F) **vs Important** (E)  
  
**Important** (F) has a much broader meaning that its English cognate. In addition to *important* in the sense of *significant* or *authoritative*, important (F) can also mean *large*, *considerable*, *substantial*.  
**Important** (E) = *important*.  
  
  
**Imposition** (F) **vs Imposition** (E)  
  
**Imposition** (F) refers to *taxation* (les impôts - *taxes*). In religion, l'imposition des mains = *the laying on of hands*.  
**Imposition** (E) has two distinct meanings. The imposition of something, such as a regulation, is *la mise en place*. In the sense of a burden, imposition can't be translated by a noun. The sentence needs to be rewritten using a verb like *abuser* or *déranger* to get the sense of imposition across.  
  
  
**Inconvénient** (F) **vs Inconvenient** (E)  
  
**Inconvénient** (F) is a noun and is also somewhat stronger than the English word *inconvenient*; un inconvénient is a *disadvantage*, *drawback*, or *risk*. Les inconvénients - *consequences*.  
**Inconvenient** (E) is an adjective: *inopportun*, *importun*, *gênant*, *peu pratique*, *malcommode*.  
  
  
**Inconsistant** (F) **vs Inconsistent** (E)  
  
**Inconsistant** (F) indicates poor consistency: *flimsy*, *weak*, *colorless*, *runny*, or *watery*. In a more general sense, it can be translated by *inconsistent*.  
**Inconsistent** (E) means lacking consistency or being erratic: *inconséquent*, *incompatible*.  
  
  
**Index** (F) **vs Index** (E)  
  
**Index** (F) can refer to the *index finger*, a *pointer*, or an *alphabetical index*.  
**Index** (E) is an alphabetical index or table. When it is used in statistics, the French equivalent is une *indice*.  
  
  
**Infect** (F) **vs Infect** (E)  
  
**Infect** (F) is an adjective: *revolting*, *obnoxious*, *squalid*, *vile*, *horrible*.  
**Infect** (E) is a verb: *infecter*, *contaminer*.  
  
  
**Information** (F) **vs Information** (E)  
  
**Information** (F) is a semi-false cognate. Une information refers to a single *piece of information*, while des informations is equivalent to the general English term *information*. In addition, une information can indicate an *official inquiry* or *investigation*.  
**Information** (E) means des *renseignements* or *informations*.  
  
  
**Informatiser** (F) **vs Inform** (E)  
  
**Informatiser** (F) = to *computerize*.  
**Inform** (E) can mean *informer*, *avertir*, *aviser*, or *renseigner*.  
  
  
**Ingrat** (F) **vs Ingrate** (E)  
  
**Ingrat** (F) can be an adjective - *ungrateful*, *bleak*, *unreliable*, or *unattractive* - or a noun: *ingrate*, *ungrateful person*.  
**Ingrate** (E) = *un ingrat*.  
  
  
**Injure** (F) **vs Injury** (E)  
  
**Injure** (F) is an *insult* or *term of abuse*.  
**Injury** (E) refers to une *blessure*.  
  
  
**Inscription** (F) **vs Inscription** (E)  
  
**Inscription** (F) is a true cognate in the sense of *text inscriptions*. However, it is also a general term for *action* as well as *registration* or *enrollment*.  
**Inscription** (E) = une *inscription* on a coin or monument, or une *dédicace* in a book.  
  
  
**Insolation** (F) **vs Insulation** (E)  
  
**Insolation** (F) means *sunstroke* or *sunshine*.  
**Insulation** (E) = *isolation*.  
  
  
**Instance** (F) **vs Instance** (E)  
  
**Instance** (F) means *authority*, *official proceedings*, or *insistence*.  
**Instance** (E) refers to something that is representative of a group, an example - *un exemple*.  
  
  
**Intégral** (F) **vs Integral** (E)  
  
**Intégral** (F) means *complete*, *unabridged*, or *total*.  
**Integral** (E) means *intégrant* or *constituant*.  
  
  
**Intéressant** (F) **vs Interesting** (E)  
  
**Intéressant** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *interesting*, it can mean *attractive*, *worthwhile*, or *favorable* (e.g., a price or offer).  
**Interesting** (E) means captivating, worth looking at, etc.  
  
  
**Intoxiqué** (F) **vs Intoxicated** (E)  
  
**Intoxiqué** (F) means *poisoned*.  
**Intoxicated** (E) means drunk - *ivre*.  
  
  
**Introduire** (F) **vs Introduce** (E)  
  
**Introduire** (F) means to *place*, *insert*, or *introduce into*. It is not used in the sense of introducing one person to another.  
**Introduce** (E) means *présenter*.  
  
  
**Isolation** (F) **vs Isolation** (E)  
  
**Isolation** (F) refers to *insulation*.  
**Isolation** (E) equals *isolement* or *quarantaine*.  
  
  
**Inviter** (F) **vs Invite** (E)  
  
**Inviter** (F) means both *to invite* and *to treat (someone to a meal/drink)*.  
**Invite** (E) = *inviter*.

**Jaillir** (F) **vs Jail** (E)  
  
**Jaillir** (F) means to *spurt out*, *gush forth*, *spring out*, etc.  
**Jail** (E) = la *prison* or *emprisonner*.  
  
  
**Jars** (F) **vs Jars** (E)  
  
**Jars** (F) is the French word for *gander* - a male goose.  
**Jars** (E) is the plural of "jar" - a wide-mouthed container made of glass or pottery: *pot, jarre*.  
  
  
**Joli** (F) **vs Jolly** (E)  
  
**Joli** (F) means *pretty* or *attractive*.  
**Jolly** (E) means *joyeux*, *jovial*, or *amusant*. In British English, jolly is a somewhat old-fashioned adverb meaning *drôlement* or *rudement*.  
  
  
**Journée** (F) **vs Journey** (E)  
  
**Journée** (F) refers to a *day* ([jour vs journée](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/an-annee-jour-journee-matin-matinee-soir-soiree.htm)).  
**Journey** (E) is un *voyage* or *trajet*.  
  
  
**Justement** (F) **vs Just** (E)  
  
**Justement** (F) can mean *exactly*, *in fact*, *rightly*, or *speaking of which*.  
**Just** (E) has two main meanings. When it means fair, it translates as *juste*. When it refers to time, as in I just ate, it is translated by [venir de](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/venir.htm) - *je viens de manger*

**Kidnapper** (F) **vs Kidnapper** (E)  
  
**Kidnapper** (F) is the French verb to *kidnap*.  
**Kidnapper** (E) refers to the person who does the deed - *un ravisseur / une ravisseuse*

**Label** (F) **vs Label** (E)  
  
**Label** (F) refers to an *official label* or *certification*, such as where a product comes from or a guarantee of its quality.  
**Label** (E) is a more general word for any kind of *étiquette*.  
  
  
**Lac** (F) **vs Lack** (E)  
  
**Lac** (F) is a large body of water - *lake*.  
**Lack** (E) is a deficiency or absence - *un manque*.  
  
  
**Laid** (F) **vs Laid** (E)  
  
**Laid** (F) is an adjective meaning *ugly*.  
**Laid** (E) is the past tense of the English verb to lay: he laid his briefcase on the table - *il a posé son porte-documents sur la table*, she was laid on the ground - *elle était déposée au sol*.  
  
  
**Lame** (F) **vs Lame** (E)  
  
**Lame** (F) is a noun: *strip* (of wood or metal), *slide* (of a microscope), or *blade*.  
**Lame** (E) is an adjective: *boiteux*, *estropié*, *faible*.  
  
  
**Langage** (F) **vs Language** (E)  
  
**Langage** (F) refers to *jargon* or other kinds of *specialized language*.  
**Language** (E) can refer both to le *langage* and to the more general term la *langue*.  
  
  
**Large** (F) **vs Large** (E)  
  
**Large** (F) is the French adjective for *wide*, *broad*, or *expansive*. It can also mean *generous* or *ample*.  
**Large** (E) is synonomous with big - *grand*, *vaste*, *gros*, *important*.  
  
  
**Lecture** (F) **vs Lecture** (E)  
  
**Lecture** (F) refers to *reading* in all senses of the word.  
**Lecture** (E) indicates a speech on a particular subject, especially for academic purposes: *une conférence*.  
  
  
**Legs** (F) **vs Leg** (E)  
  
**Legs** (F) indicates a *legacy* or *bequest*.  
**Leg** (E) is the plural of leg - une *jambe*.  
  
  
**Légume** (F) **vs Legume** (E)  
  
**Légume** (F) is a *vegetable*.  
**Legume** (E) is une *légumineuse*.  
  
  
**Lever/Lèvre** (F) **vs Lever** (E)  
  
**Lever** (F) means to *lift* or *raise*. Une **lèvre** = *lip*.  
**Lever** (E) indicates un *levier* or une *manette*.  
  
  
**Libéral** (F) **vs Liberal** (E)  
  
**Libéral** (F) in politics refers to the ideology of Libéralism, which, generally speaking, believes in individual rights, freedom of thought, limited power, rule of law, market-based policies, and transparent government. The market-based policies in particular tend to be favored by political parties on the right.  
**Liberal** (E) is more or less synonymous with Democratic in the US, which is on the left, politically.  
  
  
**Librairie** (F) **vs Library** (E)  
  
**Librairie** (F) is a *bookstore*.  
**Library** (E) is *une bibliothèque*.  
  
  
**Lice** (F) **vs Lice** (E)  
  
**Lice** (F) is fairly archaic; it refers to an *arena* (entrer en lice - to enter the competition lists) or a *female hunting dog*.  
**Lice** (E) is the plural of louse = un *pou*.  
  
  
**Licencier** (F) **vs License/Licence** (E)  
  
**Licencier** (F) means to *make redundant*, *dismiss*, or *lay off*.  
**License/Licence** (E) is a verb: *avoir une license pour* or *acheter la vignette de* as well as a noun: un *permis* or une *authorisation*. Licence is the British spelling of the noun.  
  
  
**Lime** (F) **vs Lime** (E)  
  
**Lime** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It can mean a *lime* or *lime tree*, but it more commonly refers to a *file* (metal or nail file).  
**Lime** (E) is un *citron vert* or, less commonly, une *lime*.  
  
  
**Limon** (F) **vs Lemon** (E)  
  
**Limon** (F) refers to *alluvium*, *silt*, or *stringboard*.  
**Lemon** (E) = un *citron*.  
  
  
**Liqueur** (F) **vs Liquor** (E)  
  
**Liqueur** (F) is a sweet, flavored *alcoholic beverage*: J'ai bu une liqueur après le dîner - I drank a cordial after dinner.  
**Liquor** (E) can mean any alcoholic beverage, but most often refers to hard liquor: Liquor is his only vice - *L'alcool est son vice unique*.  
  
  
**Lit** (F) **vs Lit** (E)  
  
**Lit** (F) is a *bed*.  
**Lit** (E) is the past participle of to light: *allumer* or *éclairer*.  
  
  
**Littérature** (F) **vs Literature** (E)  
  
**Littérature** (F) = *literature*, *writing*  
**Literature** (E) usually indicates *la littérature*, but can also refer to *documentation* or *brochures (publicitaires)*.  
  
  
**Livide** (F) **vs Livid** (E)  
  
**Livide** (F) = *pallid*.  
**Livid** (E) means *blafard*, *vilain*, *furieux*, or *furibond*.  
  
  
**Location** (F) **vs Location** (E)  
  
**Location** (F) refers to something that is *available for rent*, such as a house or car. C'est pour un achat ou pour une location ? - *Is it to buy or to rent?*  
**Location** (E) indicates the position or placement of someone/something: It's a suitable location for a bakery - *C'est une emplacement convenable à une boulangerie*.  
  
  
**Logeur** (F) **vs Lodger** (E)  
  
**Logeur** (F) is the *landlord* - the person who rents out rooms.  
**Lodger** (E) is the opposite - the person who rents/stays in the rooms: *locataire, pensionnaire.*  
  
  
**Losange** (F) **vs Lozenge** (E)  
  
**Losange** (F) means *diamond* (in shape).  
**Lozenge** (E) is une *pastille* (pour la toux).  
  
  
**Lover** (F) **vs Lover** (E)  
  
**Lover** (F) = *to coil*.  
**Lover** (E) = *un/e amant/e*.  
  
  
**Luxure** (F) **vs Luxury** (E)  
  
**Luxure** (F) = *lust*.  
**Luxury** (E) = *luxe*.

**Machin** (F) **vs Machine** (E)  
  
**Machin** (F) is an informal noun synonomous with un truc; it means *thingummyjig*, *whatsit*, *contraption*, or *whats-his-name*.  
**Machine** (E) is une *machine* or un *appareil*.  
  
  
**Magasin** (F) **vs Magazine** (E)  
  
**Magasin** (F) is the general word for a *store*. It is also equivalent to the *magazine* of a gun.  
**Magazine** (E) is une *revue* or un *périodique*.  
  
  
**Mail** (F) **vs Mail** (E)  
  
**Mail** (F) is the French word for the old-fashioned meaning of *mall*, i.e., a *tree-lined walk* or *square*. It is also sometimes used to mean *email*, but this is not correct ([learn more](http://french.about.com/b/a/007936.htm)).  
**Mail** (E) as a noun = *poste* or *courrier*; as a verb = *envoyer* or *expédier (par la poste)*, *poster*.  
  
  
**Main** (F) **vs Main** (E)  
  
**Main** (F) is the French noun for *hand*.  
**Main** (E) is the English adjective for *principal*, *premier*, *majeur*, or *essentiel*.  
  
  
**Maîtriser** (F) **vs Master** (E)  
  
**Maîtriser** (F) means to *control*, *overcome*, *contain*, or *master*.  
**Master** (E) is a noun: un *maître*, un *professeur*, or une *maîtrise* as well as a verb: *maîtriser*, *dompter*, *saisir*, *apprendre*.  
  
  
**Malice** (F) **vs Malice** (E)  
  
**Malice** (F) is a semi-false cognate; it can mean *malice* or simply *mischievousnous* or *mischief*.  
**Malice** (E) has only the stronger meaning of deliberate cruelty: *méchanceté* or *malveillance*.  
  
  
**Mandat** (F) **vs Mandate** (E)  
  
**Mandat** (F) refers to many different types of legal documents and powers: *mandate*, *proxy*, *power of attorney*, and *warrant*, as well as a *money order*.  
**Mandate** (E) is a noun - un *mandat* - and a verb - *donner mandat*.  
  
  
**Manger** (F) **vs Manger** (E)  
  
**Manger** (F) means *to eat*.  
**Manger** (E) = une *crèche* (religion) or une *mangeoire* (agriculture).  
  
  
**manifestation** (F) **vs manifestation** (E)  
  
**manifestation** (F) can mean *manifestation*, but is also commonly used in reference to a political *demonstration* or some kind of *event*.  
**manifestation** (E) = *manifestation*.  
  
  
**Marche** (F) **vs March** (E)  
  
**Marche** (F) refers to *walking*, *gait*, a *walk*, *march*, *running/working*, *progress*, or a *step* or *stair*.  
**March** (E) can be une *marche*, un *défilé*, or une *manifestation*.  
  
  
**Marmite** (F) **vs Marmite** (E)  
  
**Marmite** (F) = *cooking pot* or *soup pot*.  
**Marmite** (E) is a British food, a paste for bread made from yeast extract - *une pâte à tartiner à base d'extrait de levure*.  
  
  
**Marron** (F) **vs Maroon** (E)  
  
**Marron** (F) is a color, *brown*, and a food, *chestnut*.  
**Maroon** (E) is a reddish color, best translated by *bordeaux*.  
  
  
**Match** (F) **vs Match** (E)  
  
**Match** (F) is a sports *match* or *game*.  
**Match** (E) can be a un *match* and also refers to une *allumette*

**Méat** (F) **vs Meat** (E)  
  
**Méat** (F) is an uncommon word meaning *meatus* or *lacuna* in anatomy (a body opening, passage, or cavity).  
**Meat** (E) = la *viande*.  
  
  
**Mécanique** (F) **vs Mechanic** (E)  
  
**Mécanique** (F) is an adjective which means *mechanical* or *machine-made*.  
**Mechanic** (E) is a worker skilled in making, repairing, or using machines: *un mécanicien*.  
  
  
**Meeting** (F) **vs Meeting** (E)  
  
**Meeting** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *meeting*, un meeting aérien or d'aviation refers to an *air show*.  
**Meeting** (E) is une *réunion*, une *assemblée*, or un *meeting*.  
  
  
**Menteur** (F) **vs Mentor** (E)  
  
**Menteur** (F) can be a noun - *liar* or an adjective - *false*. **Mentir** (F) to *lie*.  
**Mentor** (E) is a noun - *mentor*, *maître spirituel*.  
  
  
**Menu** (F) **vs Menu** (E)  
  
**Menu** (F) is a *fixed-price menu* - [learn more](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/menu.htm).  
**Menu** (E) = une *carte*.  
  
  
**Merci** (F) **vs Mercy** (E)  
  
**Merci** (F) is the French word for *thank you*. It can also mean *mercy*, but this is quite uncommon.  
**Mercy** (E) refers to *pitié*, *indulgence*, or *miséricorde*.  
  
  
**Mère** (F) **vs Mere** (E)  
  
**Mère** (F) means *mother*.  
**Mere** (E) is an adjective meaning *simple*, *pur*, *seul*, etc.  
  
  
**Messe** (F) **vs Mess** (E)  
  
**Messe** (F) is equivalent to *mass* in all senses (religion, matter, etc.)  
**Mess** (E) = une *pagaille*, un *fouillis*, la *saleté*, or un *gâchis*.  
  
  
**Militant** (F) **vs Militant** (E)  
  
**Militant** (F) can mean either *militant* or *activist*.  
**Militant** (E) is much stronger than activist; it refers to someone who is more extreme in his/her actions and is much less willing to compromise than an activist.  
  
  
**Mine** (F) **vs Mine** (E)  
  
**Mine** (F) refers to a person's *expression*, *look*, or *appearance*, as well as a coal or other *mine*.  
**Mine** (E) is the [possessive pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/pronouns_possessive.htm) *le/la/les mien(ne)s*, orune *mine*.  
  
  
**Miser** (F) **vs Miser** (E)  
  
**Miser** (F) means to *bet*.  
**Miser** (E) refers to un *avare* or un *grippe-sou*.  
  
  
**Mode** (F) **vs Mode** (E)  
  
**Mode** (F) is a semi-false cognate. Normally, it means *fashion*; à la mode literally means *in fashion* or *fashioable*.  
**Mode** (E) is a manner or way of doing something: a mode of life - *une manière de vivre* or a particular form, variety, or manner: a mode of communication - *une façon de communiquer*. It can also refer to status: The computer is in interactive mode - *L'ordinateur est en mode conversationnel*.  
  
  
**Mondain** (F) **vs Mundane** (E)  
  
**Mondain** (F) means *society* (as an adjective), *fashionable*, or *refined*. Les plaisirs mondains - *The pleasures of society*.  
**Mundane** (E) is nearly the opposite: *banal*, *ordinaire*, *quelconque*.  
  
  
**Monnaie** (F) **vs Money** (E)  
  
**Monnaie** (F) can refer to *currency*, *coin(age)*, or *change*.  
**Money** (E) is the general term for *argent*.  
  
  
**Moral(e)** (F) **vs Moral(e)** (E)  
  
The meanings of these two words are reversed in French and English:  
**Moral** (F) = **morale** (E)  
**Moral** (E) = **morale** (F)  
  
  
**Morgue** (F) **vs Morgue** (E)  
  
**Morgue** (F) indicates *pride* or *haughtiness* as well as a *morgue* or *mortuary*.  
**Morgue** (E) une *morgue.*  
  
  
**Mousse** (F) **vs Mousse** (E)  
  
**Mousse** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It does refer to the dessert and hair product, but it also means such diverse things as *moss*, *lather*, or *foam* - so it's very important to pay attention to the context! This includes the foam in beer or a bottle of champagne.  
**Mousse** (E) simply refers to the dessert: chocolate mousse - *mousse au chocolat* or a styling product: hair mousse - *mousse coiffante*.  
  
  
**Mouton** (F) **vs Mutton** (E)  
  
**Mouton** (F) can refer both to the animal (*sheep*) as well as the meat (*mutton*).  
**Mutton** (E) refers only to the meat.

**Napkin** (F) **vs Napkin** (E)  
  
**Napkin** (F) is not in any of my dictionaries, but I learned the hard way :-) that it means a *sanitary napkin:* J'ai besoin d'un napkin - *I need a sanitary napkin*.  
**Napkin** (E) is correctly translated by *serviette*: I need a napkin - *J'ai besoin d'une serviette*.  
  
  
**Nature** (F) **vs Nature** (E)  
  
**Nature** (F) can be the noun *nature*, but is also an adjective that means *plain*, *natural*, or *uninhibited*.  
**Nature** (E) = la *nature*.  
  
  
**Niche** (F) **vs Niche** (E)  
  
**Niche** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *niche* or *recess*, it can refer to a *kennel* or *doghouse*.  
**Niche** (E) means une *niche*, un *créneau*, or une *voie* (when used figuratively: His niche in life - *Sa voie dans la vie*).  
  
  
**Note** (F) **vs Note** (E)  
  
**Note** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *note*, it can refer to scholarly *marks* or *grades* or to a *bill*, *check*, or *account*.  
**Note** (E) is translated by une *note* except in the sense of a short letter - un *mot*.  
  
  
**Notion** (F) **vs Notion** (E)  
  
**Notion** (F) refers to a *conscious notion*, as in "Je n'ai aucune notion de cela" - *I have no notion about that.* It can also mean *elementary knowledge*, such as "J'ai quelques notions d'arabe" - *I know a smattering of Arabic.*  
**Notion** (E) usually means une *idée*.

**Oblitérer** (F) **vs Obliterate** (E)  
  
**Oblitérer** (F) is nearly always used to mean *cancel*, as in a stamp. Cachet d'oblitération - *postmark*.  
**Obliterate** (E) means to do away with or to wipe out. It can be translated by *effacer* - to erase or to wear down or by *rayer* - to cross out.  
  
  
**Occasion** (F) **vs Occasion** (E)  
  
**Occasion** (F) refers to a(n) *occasion*, *circumstance*, *opportunity*, or *second-hand purchase*. Une chemise d'occasion = a *second-hand or used shirt*.  
**Occasion** (E) is une *occasion*, un *événement*, or un *motif*.  
  
  
**Occupé** (F) **vs Occupied** (E)  
  
**Occupé** (F) is from occuper - *to occupy* in all senses of the word. It can also mean to *employ* or to *keep busy*: Mon travail m'occupe beaucoup - *My work keeps me very busy*.  
**Occupied** (E) is the past participle of occupy - *occuper*, *habiter*, *remplir*.  
  
  
**Office** (F) **vs Office** (E)  
  
**Office** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to the meanings below, it can refer to *duties*, church *services* or *prayers*, or a *pantry*.  
**Office** (E) can mean the physical place where one works as well as the office or position that someone holds.  
  
  
**Offrir** (F) **vs Offer** (E)  
  
**Offrir** (F) can mean *to offer* as well as to *give* (a present) or to buy something for someone.  
**Offer** (E) is both a noun - une *offre*, *proposition*, *demande* - and a verb - *offrir*.  
  
  
**Once** (F) **vs Once** (E)  
  
**Once** (F) = *ounce*.  
**Once** (E) can mean *une fois* or *jadis*.  
  
  
**Opportunité** (F) **vs Opportunity** (E)  
  
**Opportunité** (F) refers to *timeliness* or *appropriateness*: Nous discutons de l'opportunité d'aller à la plage - *We're discussing the appropriateness of going to the beach (under the circumstances)*.  
**Opportunity** (E) leans toward favorable circumstances for a particular action or event and is translated by *occasion*: It's an opportunity to improve your French - *C'est une occasion de te perfectionner en français*.  
  
  
**Or** (F) **vs Or** (E)  
  
**Or** (F) has two completely different meanings. It is the word for *gold*: or fin - fine gold. It is also a conjunction used to make a transition from one idea to another, meaning *now* or *whereas*: Je m'attendais au pire, or il attendait patiemment - *I expected the worst, whereas he waited patiently*.  
**Or** (E) is simply a conjunction used to denote an alternative; the French equivalent is *ou*: I need to buy a pen or a pencil - *Je dois acheter un stylo ou un crayon*.  
  
  
**Organe** (F) **vs Organ** (E)  
  
**Organe** (F) refers to the *organs* of the [bodyhttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/fauxamis-o.htm) and *international organs*.  
**Organ** (E) is also the [musical instrumenthttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/fauxamis-o.htm) *orgue*.  
  
  
**Original/Originel** (F) **vs Original** (E)  
  
**Original** (F) can mean *original* in the sense of *new* or *first* as well as *eccentric* or *odd*, while **originel** means *original* in the sense of *primeval* - it's the adjecive for origins (e.g., original sin = *le péché originel*).  
**Original** (E) = *original*, *originel*, *premier*, *initial*.  
  
  
**Ostensible** (F) **vs Ostensible** (E)  
  
**Ostensible** (F) means *obvious* or *conspicuous*: Son indifférence est ostensible - *Her indifference is conspicuous*.  
**Ostensible** (E) means apparent or supposed: His ostensible reason was to help us - *Sa raison prétendu était de nous aider*.  
  
  
**Ours** (F) **vs Ours** (E)  
  
**Ours** (F) is a *bear*.  
**Ours** (E) is the [possessive pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/pronouns_possessive.htm) *le nôtre*.  
  
  
**Ouverture** (F) **vs Overture** (E)  
  
**Ouverture** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *overture*, it the French word for *opening*.  
**Overture** (E) means *ouverture* or *avance*

**Pacifique** (F) **vs Pacific** (E)  
  
**Pacifique** (F) means *peaceful* or *peace-loving*. When capitalized, it refers to the *Pacific Ocean*.  
**Pacific** (E) can mean *pacifique* or *paisible*, but most commonly refers to *le Pacifique*.  
  
  
**Pain** (F) **vs Pain** (E)  
  
**Pain** (F) is the French word for *bread*.  
**Pain** (E) is the English word for *douleur*, *peine*, *souffrance*.  
  
  
**Pair** (F) **vs Pair** (E)  
  
**Pair** (F) means a *peer*; as an adjective, pair means *even*: le côté pair de la rue - *the even-numbers side of the street*.  
**Pair** (E) is usually translated by *une paire*: a pair of shoes - *une paire de chaussures*.  
  
  
**Pale** (F) **vs Pale** (E)  
  
**Pale** (F) is an *oar*, *paddle*, or *propeller* *blade*.  
**Pale** (E) means light in color. When referring to a person's complexion, it is translated by *pâle*. But pale blue - *bleu clair*.  
  
  
**Pamphlet** (F) **vs Pamphlet** (E)  
  
**Pamphlet** (F) refers to a *satire* or *lampoon*.  
**Pamphlet** (E) is une *brochure*.  
  
  
**Pan** (F) **vs Pan** (E)  
  
**Pan** (F) has numerous meanings: *piece*, *side*, *patch [of light]*, *area*, etc) - check a dictionary for the complete listing.  
**Pan** (E) is usually *une casserole*.  
  
  
**Parcelle** (F) **vs Parcel** (E)  
  
**Parcelle** (F) means a *bit* or a *fragment*, or can refer to a *parcel of land*.  
**Parcel** (E) refers to un *colis* or un *paquet*.  
  
  
**Parent** (F) **vs Parent** (E)  
  
**Parent** (F) can refer to any *relative*. It is also an adjective meaning *related*.  
**Parent** (E) = le *père* or la *mère*.  
  
  
**Parole** (F) **vs Parole** (E)  
  
**Parole** (F) is a *word* or *speech* in general.  
**Parole** (E) refers to *parole d'honneur* or *liberté conditionnelle*.  
  
  
**Parti/Partie** (F) **vs Party** (E)  
  
**Parti** (F) can refer to several different things: a *political party*, an *option* or *course of action* (prendre un parti - to *make a decision*), or a *match* (as in he's a good match for you). It is also the past participle of [partir](http://french.about.com/cs/vocabulary/a/toleave.htm). **Partie** (F) can mean a *part* (e.g., une partie du film - a part of the film), a *field* or *subject*, a *game* (e.g., une partie de cartes - a game of cards), or a *party* in a trial.  
**Party** (E) can also mean une *fête*, *soirée*, or *réception*; un *correspondant* ([au téléphone](http://french.about.com/library/begin/bl_phone.htm)); or un *groupe*/une *équipe*.  
  
  
**Particulier** (F) **vs Particular** (E)  
  
**Particulier** (F) as an adjective has a range of meanings: *particular*, *specific*, *characteristic*, *distinctive*, *special*, *peculiar*, or *private*. As a noun, it refers to a *person* or *individual*.  
**Particular** (E) means *particulier* as an adjective, or un *détail*, un *point*, or un *renseignement* as a noun.  
  
  
**Passer** (F) **vs Pass** (E)  
  
**Passer** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It is normally translated by to *pass*, except when talking about a test. Je vais passer un examen cet après-midi - *I'm going to take a test this afternoon*.  
**Pass** (E) is translated by *réussir* when talking about a test: I passed the test - *J'ai réussi à l'examen*.  
  
  
**Pathétique** (F) **vs Pathetic** (E)  
  
**Pathétique** (F) can mean *pathetic*, but it's much more commonly used to mean *moving, touching, poignant*.  
**Pathetic** (E) = *pitoyable, navrant*.  
  
  
**Patron** (F) **vs Patron** (E)  
  
**Patron** (F) is an *owner*, *boss*, or *employer*.  
**Patron** (E) is a client, someone who purchases from a store, restaurant, or other business: *un client* or (for the theater only) *un habitué*.  
  
  
**Pavé** (F) **vs Paved** (E)  
  
**Pavé** (F) can be the adjective *paved*, but it is also a noun - *cobblestone* or *paving stone*.  
**Paved** (E) = *pavé* or *carrelé*.  
  
  
**Pays** (F) **vs Pays** (E)  
  
**Pays** (F) refers to a certain *territory*, usually a *country*, but can on occasion refer to a *village*.  
**Pays** (E) is the third person singular conjugation of the verb to pay: he pays me cash - il me paie en liquide.  
  
  
**Pédant** (F) **vs Pedantic** (E)  
  
**Pédant** (F) can be an adjective or noun meaning *pretentious, a pretentious person*.  
**Pedantic** (E) = *pointilleux*.  
  
  
**Pension** (F) **vs Pension** (E)  
  
**Pension** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to a *pension*, it can refer to a *boarding house*, *boarding school*, or *room and board* in a hotel.  
**Pension** (E) = la *pension*, la *retraite*.  
  
  
**Permis** (F) **vs Permit** (E)  
  
**Permis** (F) is an adjective - *permitted*, as well as a noun - *permit*, *license*. Permis de conduire = *driver's license*.  
**Permit** (E) can refer to *une autorisation écrite*, *un permis*, *un laissez-passer*, or *un passavant*.  
  
  
**Personne** (F) **vs Person** (E)  
  
**Personne** (F) is a semi-false cognate. As a noun, it means *person* (and is always feminine, even when referring to a man), but as a [pronoun](http://french.about.com/library/weekly/aa061000.htm), it can mean *anyone* or *no one*: Elle le connais mieux que personne - *She knows him better than anyone*. Personne n'est ici - *No one is here*.  
**Person** (E) refers to a human being.  
  
  
**Personnel** (F) **vs Personnel** (E)  
  
**Personnel** (F) is an adjective - *personal*, as well as a noun - *personnel*.  
**Personnel** (E) = le *personnel*.  
  
  
**Perverti** (F) **vs Perverted** (E)  
  
**Perverti** (F) is the past participle of pervertir: to *corrupt*, *deprave*, *poison* (figuratively). It can also have the milder sense of *alter* or *distort*.  
**Perverted** (E) = *pervers*.  
  
  
**Pet** (F) **vs Pet** (E)  
  
**Pet** (F) is a familiar noun meaning either *thump, bash, dent* or *fart* (so don't ever ask if you can [pet un chien](http://french.about.com/b/2010/11/25/automatic-translation-humor.htm)).  
**Pet** (E) as a noun means *animal domestique*; as a verb, it's equivalent to *câliner, chouchouter, caresser*.  
  
  
**Pétulant** (F) **vs Petulant** (E)  
  
**Pétulant** (F) = *exuberant, vivacious*.  
**Petulant** (E) = *irritable, irrité*.  
  
  
**Flemme** (F) **vs Phlegm** (E)  
  
**Flemme** (F) is an informal word for *laziness*. It's commonly used in the expressions "avoir la flemme" (J'ai la flemme d'y aller - *I can't be bothered to go*) and "tirer sa flemme" - *to loaf about*.  
**Phlegm** (E) = la *mucosité*.  
  
  
**Photographe** (F) **vs Photograph** (E)  
  
**Photographe** (F) is a *photographer*.  
**Photograph** (E) is une *photo* (short for *photographie*).  
  
  
**Phrase** (F) **vs Phrase** (E)  
  
**Phrase** (F) is a *sentence*.  
**Phrase** (E) refers to une *expression* or *locution*.  
  
  
**Physicien** (F) **vs Physician** (E)  
  
**Physicien** (F) = *physicist*.  
**Physician** (E) = *médicin*.

**Pie** (F) **vs Pie** (E)  
  
**Pie** (F) refers to a *magpie*.  
**Pie** (E) indicates une *tarte* or une *tourte*.  
  
  
**Pièce** (F) **vs Piece** (E)  
  
**Pièce** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It means *piece* only in the sense of broken pieces. Otherwise, it indicates a *room*, *sheet of paper*, *coin*, or *play*.  
**Piece** (E) is a part of something - un *morceau* or une *tranche*.  
  
  
**Pile** (F) **vs Pile** (E)  
  
**Pile** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to a *pile*, it can refer to a *battery* or *pier*.  
**Pile** (E) is une *pile*, un *tas*, or un *pieu de fondation*.  
  
  
**Pinte** (F) **vs Pint** (E)  
  
**Pinte** (F) means a *quart* (in Québec) and a *bar* or *café* (in Switzerland). In standard French, it refers to an archaic unit of measurement.  
**Pint** (E) is approximately un *demi-litre*.  
  
  
**Pipe** (F) **vs Pipe** (E)  
  
**Pipe** (F) can refer to a *pipe for smoking* as well as, in vulgar slang, *fellatio*.  
**Pipe** (E) = un *tuyau* or une *conduite*.  
  
  
**Pitance** (F) **vs Pittance** (E)  
  
**Pitance** (F) is an old-fashioned, formal, and derogatory word for *sustenance*.  
**Pittance** (E) is une *somme dérisoire*, un *maigre revenu*, or un *salaire de misère*.   
  
  
**Placard** (F) **vs Placard** (E)  
  
**Placard** (F) usually refers to an *armoire* or *cupboard*. It can also mean a *galley proof* or, informally, a *thick layer*.  
**Placard** (E) is une *affiche* or une *pancarte*.  
  
  
**Place** (F) **vs Place** (E)  
  
**Place** (F) can refer a *plaza*, a *place* (e.g., 2nd place), a *seat*, or a *space*.  
**Place** (E) is usually translated by un *endoit* or un *lieu*.  
  
  
**Police** (F) **vs Police** (E)  
  
**Police** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to a *law-enforcing body*, it can also mean *policy* (e.g., insurance) and *font*.  
**Police** (E) refers only to the law-enforcing body. There are two different organizations in France: *la police* - under the Ministry of the Interior and *la gendarmerie* - under the Ministry of War.  
  
  
**Politique** (F) **vs Politics** (E)  
  
**Politique** (F) can be the adjective *political* or a noun: un politique = *politician* while une politique = *politics* or a *policy*  
**Politics** (E) refers only to la *politique*.  
  
  
**Pond** (F) **vs Pond** (E)  
  
**Pond** (F) is from the verb pondre - *to lay* (an egg).  
**Pond** (E) is un *étang*.  
  
  
**Porche** (F) **vs Porch** (E)  
  
**Porche** (F) can be a *porch* or just an *entrance*.  
**Porch** (E) = un *porche*, un *véranda*, une *marquise*.  
  
  
**Pot** (F) **vs Pot** (E)  
  
**Pot** (F) can be a *jar*, *earthenware pot*, *can*, or *carton*. There is also a familiar expression prendre un pot - *to have a drink*.  
**Pot** (E) is a cooking vessel: *une marmite* or *une casserole*. Pot is also a slang term for marijuana - *marie-jeanne*.  
  
  
**Pour** (F) **vs Pour** (E)  
  
**Pour** (F) is the French [preposition](http://french.about.com/library/weekly/aa010800.htm) *for*.  
**Pour** (E) is a verb which means *verser* or *pleuvoir à verse*.  
  
  
**précaire** (F) **vs precarious** (E)  
  
**précaire** (F) means *precarious*, but only figuratively, as when talking about a relationship, a situation, or someone's health.  
**precarious** (E) can be figurative, like *précaire*, but it can also be literal, as when talking about a ladder or building in a precarious location. For this meaning, it's equivalent to *instable*.  
  
  
**Préjudice** (F) **vs Prejudice** (E)  
  
**Préjudice** (F) means *loss*, *harm*, or *damage*.  
**Prejudice** (E) refers to *préjugé(s)* or *prévention(s)*.  
  
  
**Préservatif** (F) **vs Preservative** (E)  
  
**Préservatif** (F) is a *condom*.  
**Preservative** (E) = un *agent de conservation* or un *conservateur*.  
  
  
**Prétendant** (F) **vs Pretender** (E)  
  
**Prétendant** (F) = *candidate*.  
**Pretender** (E) is uncommon in English. It used to refer to someone who was next in line for the throne, but nowadays basically would indicate someone who pretends to do/be something (to pretend = *faire semblant, simuler*).  
  
  
**Prétendre** (F) **vs Pretend** (E)  
  
**Prétendre** (F) means to *claim* or *assert*: Il prétend savoir jouer du piano - He claims to be able to play the piano. Prétendu - *alleged* or *supposed*.  
**Pretend** (E) means to make believe or to feign: She's pretending to be sick - Elle *simule* / *feint* d'être malade.  
  
  
**Prime** (F) **vs Prime** (E)  
  
**Prime** (F) is a *free gift*, *bonus*, *premium*, or *subsidy*.  
**Prime** (E) as a noun = la *fleur*, l'*apogée*, or les *plus beaux jours*.  
  
  
**Procès** (F) **vs Process** (E)  
  
**Procès** (F) refers to *legal proceedings*, a *lawsuit*, or a *trial*.  
**Process** (E) is a very general term: un *processus* or une *procédure*.  
  
  
**Professeur** (F) **vs Professor** (E)  
  
**Professeur** (F) refers to a high school, college, or university *teacher* or *instructor*.  
**Professor** (E) indicates un *professeur titulaire d'une chaire*.  
  
  
**Proposer** (F) **vs Propose** (E)  
  
**Proposer** (F) means to *propose* in the sense of *suggest*, *put forward*, *nominate*, *offer*.  
**Propose** (E) usually means to propose marriage - *faire une demande en mariage*.  
  
  
**Propre** (F) **vs Proper / Prop** (E)  
  
**Propre** (F) can mean *clean* or *own* (as in ma propre voiture - my own car).  
**Proper** (E) means *convenable* or *adéquat.***Prop** (E) is un *support* or un *étai*.  
  
  
**Proprété** (F) **vs Property** (E)  
  
**Proprété** (F) means *cleanliness*, *neatness*, *tidiness*.  
**Property** (E) refers to *propriété* (note the I in the middle) or *biens*.  
  
  
**Prune** (F) **vs Prune** (E)  
  
**Prune** (F) refers to a *plum*.  
**Prune** (E) can be a noun - un *pruneau* or a verb - *tailler*, *élaguer*.  
  
  
**Publicité** (F) **vs Publicity** (E)  
  
**Publicité** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *publicity*, une publicité can mean *advertising* in general, as well as as a *commercial* or *advertisement*.  
**Publicity** (E) = *de la publicité*.  
  
  
**Puce** (F) **vs Puce** (E)  
  
**Puce** (F) is a *flea* or a *computer chip*, as well as the color *puce*.  
**Puce** (E) = *puce*.

**Qualifier** (F) **vs Qualify** (E)  
  
**Qualifier** (F) means *to describe* or, in sports, *to qualify*.  
**Qualify** (E) can be translated by *donner à qqun les compétences/diplômes/qualifications pour (faire) qqch*. In the sense of limiting one's remarks, qualify = *nuancer* or *mettre des réserves à*.  
  
  
**Qualité** (F) **vs Quality** (E)  
  
**Qualité** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It means both *quality* (e.g., of a product) and *capacity* or position: en sa qualité de maire - *in his capacity as mayor*.  
**Quality** (E) refers to the characteristics of things or people: the quality of life - *la qualité de la vie*.  
  
  
**Quête** (F) **vs Quest** (E)  
  
**Quête** (F) is a semi-false cognate. The main sense is a *collection*, but it can also be used to refer to something like the *quest* for the holy grail or a *pursuit* of the absolute.  
**Quest** (E) can also be used for less noble pursuits: quest for a job - *à la recherche d'un emploi*.  
  
  
**Quille** (F) **vs Quill** (E)  
  
**Quille** (F) refers to a *skittle*, one of the pins used in the British game of ninepins, as well as to the game itself. Quille also means *keel*, as in the keel of a boat.  
**Quill** (E) is the shaft of a feather - *un tuyau de plume*, a large wing or tail feather - *une penne*, and the sharp spine found on porcupines - *un piquant*.  
  
  
**Quitter** (F) **vs Quit** (E)  
  
**Quitter** (F) is a semi-false cognate: it means both to *leave* and to *quit* (to leave something for good).  
**Quit** (E) often means to leave something for good and is translated by *quitter*. When it means to quit (stop) doing something, it is translated by *arrêter de*: I need to quit smoking - *Je dois arrêter de fumer*.

**Radiation** (F) **vs Radiation** (E)  
  
**Radiation** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *radiation* in physics, it can also mean *crossing* or *striking off* (a list, for example). Radier - *to cross/strike off*.  
**Radiation** (E) has three translations, depending on the type. Light - *irradiation*, heat - *rayonnement*, and radioactivity - *radiation*.  
  
  
**Raide** (F) **vs Raid** (E)  
  
**Raide** (F) is the French adjective for *stiff*, *taut*, or *steep*.  
**Raid** (E) is the English noun for un *raid* or une *incursion*.  
  
  
**Raisin** (F) **vs Raisin** (E)  
  
**Raisin** (F) is the French word for *grape*.  
**Raisin** (E) is un *raisin sec*.  
  
  
**Rampant** (F) **vs Rampant** (E)  
  
**Rampant** (F) is the French adjective for *creeping* or *crawling*: Le chat rampant m'a dérangé - *The creeping cat disturbed me*.  
**Rampant** (E) means growing without limit: Rampant vegetation covers the wall - *La végétation exubérante couvre le mur*.  
  
  
**Rang** (F) **vs Rang** (E)  
  
**Rang** (F) is a *row*, *line*, or *rank*. In Canadian French, it can be a *country road*.  
**Rang** (E) is the past participle of ring - *sonner*.  
  
  
**Râpe/Râper** (F) **vs Rape** (E)  
  
**Râpe** (F) is a *grater* or *grinder* in English. **Râper** (F) means to *grate*, *rasp*, or *grind*.  
**Rape** (E) is the noun *viol* or the verb *violer*.  
  
  
**Rat** (F) **vs Rat** (E)  
  
**Rat** (F) literally means a *rat*, and can be used pejoratively to refer to a *miser*.  
**Rat** (E) is, again, literally un *rat*. Pejoratively it means un *salaud*, and when referring to a narc or informer it is equivalent to un *mouchard*.  
  
  
**Rater** (F) **vs Rate** (E)  
  
**Rater** (F) means to *misfire*, *miss*, *mess up*, or *fail*.  
**Rate** (E) is the noun *proportion* or *taux* or the verb *évaluer* or *considérer*.  
  
  
**Réalisation** (F) **vs Realization** (E)  
  
**Réalisation** (F) means *fulfillment*, *achievement*, *completion*, or *conclusion*.  
**Realization** (E) can refer to la *réalisation* of one's hopes or ambitions, as well as une *prise de conscience*.  
  
  
**Réaliser** (F) **vs Realize** (E)  
  
**Réaliser** (F) means to *fulfill* (a dream or aspiration) or *achieve*.  
**Realize** (E) means *se rendre compte de*, *prendre conscience de*, or *comprendre*.  
  
  
**Recette** (F) **vs Receipt** (E)  
  
**Recette** (F) = *recipe* or *receipts/takings*  
**Receipt** (E) = un *reçu*, un *récépissé*.  
  
  
**Récipient** (F) **vs Recipient** (E)  
  
**Récipient** (F) refers to a *container* or *receptacle*.  
**Recipient** (E) is une *personne qui reçoit*, un/e *destinataire*, or un/e *bénéficiaire*.  
  
  
**Refus** (F) **vs Refuse** (E)  
  
**Refus** (F) means *refusal* or *insubordination*  
**Refuse** (E) (as a noun) refers to garbage: *détritus*, *ordures*, *déchets*. The verb Refuse is equivalent to *refuser* in French.  
  
  
**Regard** (F) **vs Regard** (E)  
  
**Regard** (F) can mean a *glance*, *expression* (on one's face), *manhole*, or *peephole*.  
**Regard** (E) can mean *attention*, *considération*, *respect*, or *estime*.  
  
  
**Regretter** (F) **vs Regret** (E)  
  
**Regretter** (F) can mean to *regret*, but also to *miss*: Je regrette ma famille - *I miss my family*.  
**Regret** (E) is a noun - *regret* and a verb - *regretter* or *être désolé*.  
  
  
**Rein** (F) **vs Rein** (E)  
  
**Rein** (F) is a *kidney*.  
**Rein** (E) is une *rêne* or une *guide*.  
  
  
**Relatif** (F) **vs Relative** (E)  
  
**Relatif** (F) = *relative*.  
**Relative** (E) can either be an adjective - *relatif* or a noun - *parent* or *membre de la famille*.  
  
  
**Remarquer** (F) **vs Remark** (E)  
  
**Remarquer** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It can mean to *notice* or to *remark*. Une remarque is a *comment* or *remark*.  
**Remark** (E) is both the noun and the verb – *remarque*

**Rentable** (F) **vs Rentable** (E)  
  
**Rentable** (F) means *profitable* or *financially viable*.  
**Rentable** (E) is not, as far as I know, an English word, but if it were what it looks like (an adjective that means "able to be rented"), it would be the equivalent of *louable*.  
  
  
**Replacer** (F) **vs Replace** (E)  
  
**Replacer** (F) means to *put something back* in its place: to *re-place* it.  
**Replace** (E) means *remplacer* or *remettre*.  
  
  
**Replier** (F) **vs Reply** (E)  
  
**Replier** (F) means to *fold up (again)* or *roll (back) up*.  
**Reply** (E) = *répondre* (verb) or une *réplique* (noun).  
  
  
**Reporter** (F) **vs Report** (E)  
  
**Reporter** (F) means to *postpone* or to *take back*.  
**Report** (E) as a verb means *rapporter*, *déclarer*, or *dénoncer*. The noun refers to un *rapport* or une *rumeur*.  
  
  
**Représentation** (F) **vs Representation** (E)  
  
**Représentation** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to the English meanings of the word, it can also refer to theatrical *performances*.  
**Representation** (E) refers to a notation or a graphic, as well as representation in government.  
  
  
**Responsable** (F) **vs Responsible** (E)  
  
**Responsable** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to an adjective, Responsable is a noun meaning *responsible party*, *official*, *representative*, or *person in charge*.  
**Responsible** (E) is equivalent to its French cognate.  
  
  
**Restauration** (F) **vs Restoration** (E)  
  
**Restauration** (F) can refer to *artistic* or *official restoration* or to *catering* / the *restaurant business*.  
**Restoration** (E) is usually translated by *rétablissement*.  
  
  
**Rester** (F) **vs Rest** (E)  
  
**Rester** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It usually means to *stay* or *remain*: Je suis restée à la maison - *I stayed at the house*. When it is used idiomatically, it is translated by *rest*: Il refusait d'en rester là - *He refused to let the matter rest*.  
**Rest** (E) in the sense of getting some rest, is translated by *se reposer*: She never rests - *Elle ne se repose jamais*.  
  
  
**Résumer/Résumé** (F) **vs Resume/Résumé** (E)  
  
**Résumer** (F) means to *summarize*. **Résumé** (F) is a *summary*.  
**Resume** (E) means to begin again: *reprendre*, *recommencer*. **Résumé** (E) is un *CV*.  
  
  
**Retard** (F) **vs Retard** (E)  
  
**Retard** (F) indicates *lateness* or *delay*.  
**Retard** (E) is a derogatory slang term for a person who is mentally retarded, as well as a verb that means to delay or impede: *retarder*.  
  
  
**Retirer** (F) **vs Retire** (E)  
  
**Retirer** (F) means to *take off/out*, *remove*, *collect*, *withdraw*, or *obtain*.  
**Retire** (E) is translated as *prendre sa retraite*.  
  
  
**Retraite** (F) **vs Retreat** (E)  
  
**Retraite** (F) can refer to *retirement*, a *pension*, or *military retreat*.  
**Retreat** (E) indicates une *retraite* or, less commonly, un *repli* (currency).  
  
  
**Réunion** (F) **vs Reunion** (E)  
  
**Réunion** (F) can mean *collection*, *gathering*, *raising* (of money), or *reunion*.  
**Reunion** (E) is une *réunion*, but note that it usually refers to a meeting of a group that has been separated for an extended period of time (e.g., class reunion, [familyhttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/fauxamis-r_2.htm) reunion).  
  
  
**Revenu** (F) **vs Revenue** (E)  
  
**Revenu** (F) is the equivalent of *revenue* or *income*, but it is also the past participle of revenir - to *come back*.  
**Revenue** (E) means *revenu* or *rentes*.  
  
  
**Revue** (F) **vs Revue** (E)  
  
**Revue** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addtion to *revue*, it often means a *magazine* as well as *review* or *inspection*.  
**Revue** (E) is a *revue* or *spectacle*.  
  
  
**Ride/Rider** (F) **vs Ride** (E)  
  
**Ride/Rider** (F) is a *wrinkle*, *ripple*, or *ridge*. Rider means to *wrinkle* or *shrivel up*.  
**Ride** (E) is a noun - une *promenade*, un *tour* - and a verb - *monter à cheval*, *aller à cheval*/*moto*/etc.  
  
  
**Risquer** (F) **vs Risk** (E)  
  
**Risquer** (F) refers to any *possibility*, either bad or good. Something bad, of course, is equivalent to *risk* in English, but good is more difficult. Ça risque d'être très intéressant - *It might/could be very interesting*.  
**Risk** (E) = *risquer*.  
  
  
**Robe** (F) **vs Robe** (E)  
  
**Robe** (F) refers to a *dress*, *frock*, or *gown*.  
**Robe** (E) = un *peignoir*.  
  
  
**Rose** (F) **vs Rose** (E)  
  
**Rose** (F) can indicate the *flower* as well as the color *pink*. In politics, it means *red* (Communist). When talking about chat lines, it means *erotic* chat.  
**Rose** (E) = une *rose*. It's also the past participle of rise - *lever*.  
  
  
**Route** (F) **vs Route** (E)  
  
**Route** (F) is a semi-false cognate. It can refer to a maritime or trade *route* or else to a *road*.  
**Route** (E) means *itinéraire*, *voie*, or *parcours*.

**Salaire** (F) **vs Salary** (E)  
  
**Salaire** (F) can mean *salary* or just *wages* or *pay* in general.  
**Salary** (E) indicates a fixed *salaire* per month or year; it can't mean hourly wages the way the French word can.  
  
  
**Sale** (F) **vs Sale** (E)  
  
**Sale** (F) is an adjective - *dirty*. Saler means to *salt*.  
**Sale** (E) is the noun for *vente* or *solde*.  
  
  
**Scène** (F) **vs Scene** (E)  
  
**Scène** (F) refers to the *stage* as well as all senses of *scene*.  
**Scene** (E) means *scène* or *décor*.  
  
  
**Scientifique** (F) **vs Scientific** (E)  
  
**Scientifique** (F) can be an adjective, *scientific*, or a noun, *scientist*.  
**Scientific** (E) is always an adjective: *scientifique* or *méthodique*.  
  
  
**Scrutin** (F) **vs Scrutiny** (E)  
  
**Scrutin** (F) = *ballot, poll, election*.  
**Scrutiny** (E) refers to *un examen minutieux/rigoureux, un regard insistant*.  
  
  
**Secret** (F) **vs Secret** (E)  
  
**Secret** (F) is a semi-false cognate; in addition to the English sense of *secret*, the French word can mean *reserved* or *reticent*: Il est secret - *He is reserved*.  
**Secret** (E) refers to something that is not public knowledge.  
  
  
**Sécurité** (F) **vs Security** (E)  
  
**Sécurité** (F) means *safety* as well as *security*.  
**Security** (E) can refer to une *caution* or *guarantie* in addition to la *sécurité*.  
  
  
**Seize** (F) **vs Seize** (E)  
  
**Seize** (F) is the number *sixteen*.  
**Seize** (E) is the verb *saisir*.  
  
  
**Sensible** (F) **vs Sensible** (E)  
  
**Sensible** (F) means *sensitive* or even *nervous*, as in pas recommandé aux sensibles - *not recommended for people of a nervous disposition*.  
**Sensible** (E) means to show good sense, e.g., in making decisions: *sensé*, *raisonnable*, *sage*.  
  
  
**Sentir** (F) **vs Sent** (E)  
  
**Sentir** (F) means to *smell* or *feel*.  
**Sent** (E) is the past participle of to send = *envoyer*.  
  
  
**Siège** (F) **vs Siege** (E)  
  
**Siège** (F) usually refers to a *seat* or *chair*, although it can also mean a *siege*.  
**Siège** (E) = *siège*.  
  
  
**Signe** (F) **vs Sign** (E)  
  
**Signe** (F) is a semi-false cognate It can refer to a *sign in sign language*, a *gesture*, an *omen*, a *sign of the zodiac*, or a *symbol*. It can also mean a *mark* or *feature*, as in signes particuliers - *distinguishing marks or features*.  
**Sign** (E) includes all of the meanings in the first sentence, above, but can also mean a street or store sign: un *panneau* or une *enseigne*, respectively.  
  
  
**Signet** (F) **vs Signet** (E)  
  
**Signet** (F) is a *marker* or *bookmark*.  
**Signet** (E) is un *sceau* or un *cachet*. A signet ring = une *chevalière*.  
  
  
**Simple** (F) **vs Simple** (E)  
  
**Simple** (F) is a semi-false cognate It can mean *plain*, *one-way* (as in a street or a plane ticket), or *singles* (as in tennis).  
**Simple** (E) is equivalent to its French cognate.  
  
  
**Sinistre/Sinistré** (F) **vs Sinister** (E)  
  
**Sinistre** (F) is a true cognate as an adjective, but as a noun it refers to a *catastrophe*, *disaster*, or *accident*.  
**Sinistré** (F) is a noun - *disaster victim* and an adjective - *disaster-stricken*.  
**Sinister** (E) means *sinistre*, *funeste*, or *menaçant*.  
  
  
**Situation** (F) **vs Situation** (E)  
  
**Situation** (F) is a semi-false cognate In addition to *situation*, it can refer to *location* or *position*.  
**Situation** (E) refers to *situation* or *conjoncture*.

**Social** (F) **vs Social** (E)  
  
**Social** (F) is a semi-false cognate In addition to the English sense, it often refers to the [worldhttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/fauxamis-s_2.htm) of *industrial* or *labor* *relations*: partenaires sociaux *- management and labor.*  
**Social** (E) describes someone/something that enjoys the company of others: a social creature - *une créature sociale*.  
  
  
**Société** (F) **vs Society** (E)  
  
**Société** (F) can refer to *society* or to a *company*.  
**Society** (E) = *société*.  
  
  
**Solde** (F) **vs Sold** (E)  
  
**Solde** (F) can be masculine or [femininehttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/fauxamis-s_2.htm). **Le solde** = *sale, financial balance*, **la solde** = *pay*.  
**Sold** (E) is the past participle of **to sell** = *vendre*.  
  
  
**Sole** (F) **vs Sole** (E)  
  
**Sole** (F) can refer to the fish *sole* or a *hearth*.  
**Sole** (E) can refer a kind of fish - une *sole*, the sole of a shoe - la *semelle*, or the adjective *seul* or *unique*.  
  
  
**Son** (F) **vs Son** (E)  
  
**Son** (F) is the third person singular [possessive adjective](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/adjectives_possessive.htm) as well as the French noun for *sound*.  
**Son** (E) is the English word for *fils*.  
  
  
**Sort** (F) **vs Sort** (E)  
  
**Sort** (F) refers to one's *lot in life*, *fate*, or a magical *spell*.  
**Sort** (E) = une *sorte*, un *genre*, une *espèce*, une *marque*.  
  
  
**Sortir** (F) **vs Sort** (E)  
  
**Sortir** (F) means to *go out* or to *leave*.  
**Sort** (E) means *classer*, *trier*, or *séparer*.  
  
  
**Source** (F) **vs Source** (E)  
  
**Source** (F) is a semi-false cognate In addition to *source*, it can refer to a *spring* (source of water).  
**Source** (E) is une *source* or une *origine*.  
  
  
**Souvenir** (F) **vs Souvenir** (E)  
  
**Souvenir** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to the English sense, it is the French verb "to remember" as well as a noun for *memory*, *recollection*, and *remembrance*.  
**Souvenir** (E) is a keepsake or memento.  
  
  
**Spécial** (F) **vs Special** (E)  
  
**Spécial** (F) is a semi-false cognate In addition to *special*, it can mean *strange*: Elle est très spéciale - She is very peculiar.  
**Special** (E) refers to something out of the ordinary: a special event - *un événement spécial*.  
  
  
**Spectacle** (F) **vs Spectacle** (E)  
  
**Spectacle** (F) refers to any sort of *exhibition*: un spectacle de danse - a dance performance or to something that others can watch: le spectacle de la rue - *the bustle on the street*.  
**Spectacle** (E) is a semi-false cognate It can mean an exhibition, but is usually used with a negative connotation: you made a spectacle of yourself - *tu t'es donné en spectacle*. Spectacles is the British English word for *lunettes*.  
  
  
**Sportif** (F) **vs Sportive** (E)  
  
**Sportif** (F) refers to something related to *sports*: un journal sportif - a sports magazine or *someone who is fond of sports*: un homme sportif - an athletic man.  
**Sportive** (E) means playful or merry - *folâtre, badin*.  
  
  
**Stable** (F) **vs Stable** (E)  
  
**Stable** (F) means *stable*, *steady*, or *unmoving*.  
**Stable** (E) is a semi-false cognate In addition to meaning the adjective *stable*, it can be the noun *écurie*.  
  
  
**Stage** (F) **vs Stage** (E)  
  
**Stage** (F) is an *internship* or *training period*.  
**Stage** (E) is une *scène*, le *théâtre*, un *estrade*, or une *étape*.  
  
  
**standard** (F) **vs standard** (E)  
  
**standard** (F) as a noun is a *switchboard*. As an adjective, it's the same as *standard*.  
**standard** (E) as a noun refers to *une norme, un critère, un niveau*.  
  
  
**Station** (F) **vs Station** (E)  
  
**Station** (F) can refer to most kinds of *transportation stops*: station d'autobus (bus stop), station de métro (subway station), station de taxis (taxi rank). It can also be used, as in English, to refer to an *observation* or *research station*.  
**Station** (E) has pretty much all of the above meanings as well as others: police station (*la gendarmerie*), train station (*la gare*), station in life (*sa situation sociale*). As a verb, it can be translated by *placer*, *poster*, or *installer*.  
  
  
**Store** (F) **vs Store** (E)  
  
**Store** (F) refers to a *blind*, *shade*, or *awning*.  
**Store** (E) is any sort of *magasin* or *provision* as well as the verb *mettre en réserve* or *conserver*.  
  
  
**String** (F) **vs String** (E)  
  
**String** (F) is a *G-string* or *thong*.  
**String** (E) refers to une *ficelle*, un *fil*, une *corde*.  
  
  
**Suit** (F) **vs Suit** (E)  
  
**Suit** (F) is from the verb suivre - to *follow*.  
**Suit** (E) can be a noun - *costume*, *tailleur*, *tenue*, etc. or a verb - *convenir à*.  
  
  
**Supplier** (F) **vs Supplier/Supply** (E)  
  
**Supplier** (F) is the verb *to beg*, *beseech*, or *implore*.  
**Supplier** (E) is a noun for one who supplies - un *fournisseur*. Supply as a noun means une *provision*, une *réserve*, un *stock*, or une *alimentation*. As a verb, it means *fournir*, *procurer*, or *approvisionner*.  
  
  
**Supporter** (F) **vs Support** (E)  
  
**Supporter** (F) means to *support* or *hold up*, as well as to *endure* or *put up with something*.  
**Support** (E) means all of these things, but in the sense of enduring something, *soutenir* is the more common translation.  
  
  
**Surgeon** (F) **vs Surgeon** (E)  
  
**Surgeon** (F) is a botanical term meaning *sucker, shoot*.  
**Surgeon** (E) = *un chirurgien*.  
  
  
**Surnom** (F) **vs Surname** (E)  
  
**Surnom** (F) = *nickname*.  
**Surname** (E) = *nom (de famille)*.  
  
  
**Susceptible** (F) **vs Susceptible** (E)  
  
**Susceptible** (F) means *sensitive*, *touchy*, or *thin-skinned*, or else *capable* or *likely* (est-il susceptible de... - *is he capable of / likely to...*)  
**Susceptible** (E) = *sensible*, *ouvert*, or *accessible à*. In medicine, it means *prédisposé à (une maladie)*.  
  
  
**Sympathie** (F) **vs Sympathy** (E)  
  
**Sympathie** (F) refers to *friendship*. In literary French, it can mean *sympathy, compassion*.  
**Sympathy** (E) = *compassion, condoléances*.  
  
  
**Sympathique** (F) **vs Sympathetic** (E)  
  
**Sympathique** (F) (or sympa) means *nice*, *likeable*, *friendly*, *kindly*.  
**Sympathetic** (E) can be translated by *compatissant* or *de sympathie*

**Tarif** (F) **vs Tariff** (E)  
  
**Tarif** (F) can refer to a *price list* or *rate* as well as a *tariff*.  
**Tariff** (E) = un *tarif*.  
  
  
**Tenant** (F) **vs Tenant** (E)  
  
**Tenant** (F) is the [presenthttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/fauxamis-t.htm) participle of the verb [tenir](http://french.about.com/library/verb/bl_tenir.htm) - to *hold* or to *keep*.  
**Tenant** (E) refers to un *locataire*.  
  
  
**Thé** (F) **vs The** (E)  
  
**Thé** (F) means *tea*.  
**The** (E) is the [definite article](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/articles_2.htm) *le*, *la*, or *les*.  
  
  
**Ticket** (F) **vs Ticket** (E)  
  
**Ticket** (F) is a bus or subway *ticket*.  
**Ticket** (E) is translated by *un billet* for everything else.  
  
  
**Timbre** (F) **vs Timber** (E)  
  
**Timbre** (F) is a *stamp* or the *timbre* of a voice/instrument.  
**Timber** (E) is *bois d'oeuvre* or *de construction*.  
  
  
**Tirer** (F) **vs Tire** (E)  
  
**Tirer** (F) means *to pull*.  
**Tire** (E) as a verb means *fatiguer* or *lasser*, as a noun it means *un pneu*.  
  
  
**Ton** (F) **vs Ton** (E)  
  
**Ton** (F) is a noun - *tone*, *pitch*, as well as the second person singular [possessive adjective](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/adjectives_possessive.htm) - *your*.  
**Ton** (E) refers to une *tonne* or un *tonneau*.  
  
  
**Tongs** (F) **vs Tongs** (E)  
  
**Tongs** (F) are *flip-flops* or *thongs* (for your feet - the other kind of thong is *un string*).  
**Tongs** (E) are *pinces*.  
  
  
**Tour** (F) **vs Tour** (E)  
  
**Tour** (F) when masculine, refers to a *walk around*, *trip*, *turn*, or *lathe*. Une tour is a *tower*.  
**Tour** (E) is un *voyage* or une *visite*.  
  
  
**Tourniquet** (F) **vs Tourniquet** (E)  
  
**Tourniquet** (F) usually refers to something that revoles: *turnstile*, *revolving door*, *turbine*, but it can also indicate a *tourniquet* or *court-martial*.  
**Tourniquet** (E) is most commonly translated by un *garrot*.  
  
  
**Trafiquer** (F) **vs Traffic** (E)  
  
**Trafiquer** (F) means *to traffic* in the sense of something illegal (guns, drugs, etc). In addition, it means *to tamper with* or *doctor*, as in On a trafiquer les freins - *Someone tampered with the brakes*.  
**Traffic** (E) as a verb has only the first sense above. As a noun, it can refer to illegal trade as well as *la circulation (routière)*.  
  
  
**Traîner** (F) **vs Trainer/Train** (E)  
  
**Traîner** (F) means to *pull* or *drag*, or to *lag behind*.  
**Trainer** (E) is un *entraîneur* in reference to a person. To UK English speakers, **trainers** are *des tennis* or *des baskets*. **Train** (E) = *former*, *instruire*, *entraîner*.  
  
  
**Travailler** (F) **vs Travel** (E)  
  
**Travailler** (F) means to *work*.  
**Travel** (E) = *voyager*.  
  
  
**Trépasser** (F) **vs Trespass** (E)  
  
**Trépasser** (F) means to *pass away*.  
**Trespass** (E) means to invade another's property: *s'introduire sans permission*.  
  
  
**Trimestre** (F) **vs Trimester** (E)  
  
**Trimestre** (F) means *three months*, or a *quarter* of a year.  
**Trimester** (E) usually means four months, or a third of a year. There is no equivalent French term. In reference to pregnancy, however, a trimester does mean three months, because it is a third of the 9-month term.  
  
  
**Trombone** (F) **vs Trombone** (E)  
  
**Trombone** (F) is a semi-false cognate In addition to a *trombone*, it can refer to a *paper clip*.  
**Trombone** (E) refers to une *trombone*.  
  
  
**Truand** (F) **vs Truant** (E)  
  
**Truand** (F) = *gangster*.  
**Truant** (E) doesn't have a simple equivalent, you have to say *un élève absent sans autorisation*.  
  
  
**Truc** (F) **vs Truck** (E)  
  
**Truc** (F) refers to an unnamed or unknown object: *thing*, *trick*, *thingamajig*.  
**Truck** (E) is a heavy motor vehicle for carrying things: *un camion*.  
  
  
**Truculent** (F) **vs Truculent** (E)  
  
**Truculent** (F) means *vivid*, *colorful*, *racy*, *larger than life*, etc.  
**Truculent** (E) describes someone who is aggressive or predisposed to fight: *brutal, aggressif*.  
  
  
**Tube** (F) **vs Tube** (E)  
  
**Tube** (F) usually indicates a *tube* but is also an informal word for a musical *hit*. À pleins tubes - *full throttle*.  
**Tube** (E) = un *tube*.  
  
  
**Type** (F) **vs Type** (E)  
  
**Type** (F) is an informal word for a *guy* or *bloke*. In the normal register, it can mean *type*, *kind*, or *epitome*. Quel type de moto ? - *What kind of motorbike?* Le type de l'égoïsme - *The epitome of selfishness*.  
**Type** (E) means un *type*, un *genre*, une *espèce*, une *sorte*, une *marque*, etc.

**Ultérieur** (F) **vs Ulterior** (E)  
  
**Ultérieur** (F) means *later* or *subsequent*: la séance est reportée à une date ultérieure - *the meeting is postponed to a later date*.  
**Ulterior** (E) is followed by motive, meaning a hidden or secret purpose: he had an ulterior motive - *il avait un motif secret*.  
  
  
**Unique** (F) **vs Unique** (E)  
  
**Unique** (F) means *only* when it precedes a noun (unique fille - *only girl*) and *unique* or *one of a kind* when it follows. More: [fickle French adjectives](http://french.about.com/library/weekly/bl-fickleadjectives.htm).  
**Unique** (E) means *unique*, *inimitable*, or *exceptionnel*.  
  
  
**Unité** (F) **vs Unity** (E)  
  
**Unité** (F) means *unity* as well as *unit*.  
**Unity** (E) is equivalent to *unité* when used literally, and *harmonie* or *accord* when figurative.  
  
  
**Urne** (F) **vs Urn** (E)  
  
**Urne** (F) can mean a *ballot box* or an *urn*. Aller or Se rendre aux urnes = to *vote*.  
**Urn** (E) is une *urne*.  
  
  
**Us** (F) **vs Us** (E)  
  
**Us** (F) is usually followed by et coutumes and refers to *customs*.  
**Us** (E) is the first person plural [stressed pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/pronouns_stressed.htm): *nous*.  
  
  
**Usage** (F) **vs Usage** (E)  
  
**Usage** (F) = *use* as well as *custom*. It is equivalent to *usage* only in reference to language; e.g., une expression consacrée par l'usage - an expression fixed by usage.  
**Usage** (E), outside of language, is equivalent to *utilisation* or *traitement*.  
  
  
**User** (F) **vs Use(r)** (E)  
  
**User** (F) means to *wear away/out*.  
**Use(r)** (E) as a noun means *l'emploi* or *l'utilisation*, while as a verb it is translated by *utiliser* or *se servir de*. A user is un *usager*, *consommateur*, or, in the negative sense, *profiteur*.  
  
  
**Usuel** (F) **vs Usual** (E)  
  
**Usuel** (F) means *ordinary*, *everyday*, or *common*.  
**Usual** (E) is slightly different: it leans more toward "typical" or "normal" - *habituel* or *courant*.  
  
  
**Usure** (F) **vs Usury** (E)  
  
**Usure** (F) refers to *wear (and tear)* or *usury*.  
**Usury** (E) = *usure*.  
  
  
**Utilité** (F) **vs Utility** (E)  
  
**Utilité** (F) means *usefulness* or *use*.  
**Utility** (E) can refer to l'*utilité*, but when plural means *services publics*.

**Vacance** (F) **vs Vacancy** (E)  
  
**Vacance** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *vacancy*, it can mean *holiday* or *vacation*.  
**Vacancy** (E) = une *chambre à louer*, un *poste libre*, or une *vacance*.  
  
  
**Vaisselle** (F) **vs Vessel** (E)  
  
**Vaisselle** (F) means *dishes* or *crockery*: faire la vaisselle - to do the dishes.  
**Vessel** (E) is un *vaisseau*, nav*i*re, *bâtiment*, or *récipient*.  
  
  
**Vase** (F) **vs Vase** (E)  
  
**Vase** (F) when masculine refers to a *vase*, but la vase = *silt*, *mud*, or *sludge*. ([More dual-gender words](http://french.about.com/library/vocab/bl-dualgender.htm))  
**Vase** (E) = un *vase*.  
  
  
**Vendre** (F) **vs Vendor** (E)  
  
**Vendre** (F) means to *sell*.  
**Vendor** (E) is un *marchand*.  
  
  
**Vent** (F) **vs Vent** (E)  
  
**Vent** (F) is the noun *wind*.  
**Vent** (E) can refer to any of the following: un *orifice*, un *conduit*, un *tuyau*, une *cheminée*, un *trou*, une *fente*.  
  
  
**Vérifier** (F) **vs Verify** (E)  
  
**Vérifier** (F) can mean to *verify* as well as to *check*, *audit*, *confirm*, or *prove*.  
**Verify** (E) means *vérifier* or *confirmer*.  
  
  
**Vers** (F) **vs Verse** (E)  
  
**Vers** (F) can be a preposition meaing *toward*, *around*, or *about*, or a masculine noun meaning a *line* of poetry or *verse*, but only in the sense of distinguishing between verse (poetry) and prose. Vers is also the plural of un ver = *worm*.  
**Verse** (E) is une *strophe* or un *couplet*.  
  
  
**Versatile** (F) **vs Versatile** (E)  
  
**Versatile** (F) means *fickle*, *changeable*, or *inconsistent*.  
**Versatile** (E) means *aux talents variés* or *souple*.  
  
  
**Vexé** (F) **vs Vexed** (E)  
  
**Vexé** (F) means *hurt*, *upset*, or *offended.*  
**Vexed** (E) means angry - *fâché*.  
  
  
**Vie** (F) **vs Vie** (E)  
  
**Vie** (F) is the French word for *life*: C'est la vie - *That's life.*  
**Vie** (E) means to struggle or fight: I vied with him for the gun - *J'ai rivalisé avec lui pour le pistolet*.  
  
  
**Vilain** (F) **vs Villain** (E)  
  
**Vilain** (F) means *ugly*, *bad*, or *nasty*.  
**Villain** (E) is un *scélérat*, un *traître*, or un *bandit*.  
  
  
**Volatil(e) and Volatile** (F) **vs Volatile** (E)  
  
**Volatil(e)** (F) is an adjective meaning *volatile* when referring to a chemical. It can also mean *fleeting*: une valeur volatile - *a fleeting value*. **Un volatile** is a *bird* or other winged creature.  
**Volatile** (E) can only be translated by *volatil(e)* in the chemistry lab. A volatile situation - *une situation explosive*. A volatile person - *une personne versatile*.  
  
  
**Voyage** (F) **vs Voyage** (E)  
  
**Voyage** (F) is a *journey* or *trip*. Voyager means to *travel*.  
**Voyage** (E) is un *voyage par mer*.

**Vacance** (F) **vs Vacancy** (E)  
  
**Vacance** (F) is a semi-false cognate. In addition to *vacancy*, it can mean *holiday* or *vacation*.  
**Vacancy** (E) = une *chambre à louer*, un *poste libre*, or une *vacance*.  
  
  
**Vaisselle** (F) **vs Vessel** (E)  
  
**Vaisselle** (F) means *dishes* or *crockery*: faire la vaisselle - to do the dishes.  
**Vessel** (E) is un *vaisseau*, nav*i*re, *bâtiment*, or *récipient*.  
  
  
**Vase** (F) **vs Vase** (E)  
  
**Vase** (F) when masculine refers to a *vase*, but la vase = *silt*, *mud*, or *sludge*. ([More dual-gender words](http://french.about.com/library/vocab/bl-dualgender.htm))  
**Vase** (E) = un *vase*.  
  
  
**Vendre** (F) **vs Vendor** (E)  
  
**Vendre** (F) means to *sell*.  
**Vendor** (E) is un *marchand*.  
  
  
**Vent** (F) **vs Vent** (E)  
  
**Vent** (F) is the noun *wind*.  
**Vent** (E) can refer to any of the following: un *orifice*, un *conduit*, un *tuyau*, une *cheminée*, un *trou*, une *fente*.  
  
  
**Vérifier** (F) **vs Verify** (E)  
  
**Vérifier** (F) can mean to *verify* as well as to *check*, *audit*, *confirm*, or *prove*.  
**Verify** (E) means *vérifier* or *confirmer*.  
  
  
**Vers** (F) **vs Verse** (E)  
  
**Vers** (F) can be a preposition meaing *toward*, *around*, or *about*, or a masculine noun meaning a *line* of poetry or *verse*, but only in the sense of distinguishing between verse (poetry) and prose. Vers is also the plural of un ver = *worm*.  
**Verse** (E) is une *strophe* or un *couplet*.  
  
  
**Versatile** (F) **vs Versatile** (E)  
  
**Versatile** (F) means *fickle*, *changeable*, or *inconsistent*.  
**Versatile** (E) means *aux talents variés* or *souple*.  
  
  
**Vexé** (F) **vs Vexed** (E)  
  
**Vexé** (F) means *hurt*, *upset*, or *offended.*  
**Vexed** (E) means angry - *fâché*.  
  
  
**Vie** (F) **vs Vie** (E)  
  
**Vie** (F) is the French word for *life*: C'est la vie - *That's life.*  
**Vie** (E) means to struggle or fight: I vied with him for the gun - *J'ai rivalisé avec lui pour le pistolet*.  
  
  
**Vilain** (F) **vs Villain** (E)  
  
**Vilain** (F) means *ugly*, *bad*, or *nasty*.  
**Villain** (E) is un *scélérat*, un *traître*, or un *bandit*.  
  
  
**Volatil(e) and Volatile** (F) **vs Volatile** (E)  
  
**Volatil(e)** (F) is an adjective meaning *volatile* when referring to a chemical. It can also mean *fleeting*: une valeur volatile - *a fleeting value*. **Un volatile** is a *bird* or other winged creature.  
**Volatile** (E) can only be translated by *volatil(e)* in the chemistry lab. A volatile situation - *une situation explosive*. A volatile person - *une personne versatile*.  
  
  
**Voyage** (F) **vs Voyage** (E)  
  
**Voyage** (F) is a *journey* or *trip*. Voyager means to *travel*.  
**Voyage** (E) is un *voyage par mer*.

**Waters** (F) **vs Waters** (E)  
  
**Waters** (F) is one of many words for a *bathroom*: Où se trouvent les waters ? - *Where is the bathroom?*  
**Waters** (E) is simply the plural of water – *eau*

**Zeste** (F) **vs Zest** (E)  
  
**Zeste** (F) refers to *zest*, the *grated citrus fruit peel* used in cooking. It can also be used ironically to mean a *hint* or *touch of something*: un zeste de folie - a *hint of madness*.  
**Zest** (E) can mean *zeste*, but more commonly indicates great enthusiasm - un *entrain*, un *désir*, un *goût*. Zest for life - un *goût de vivre*.  
  
  
**Zone** (F) **vs Zone** (E)  
  
**Zone** (F) usually means a *zone* or an *area*. It can also refer to a *slum*.  
**Zone** (E) = *une zone*.