

GCSE FRENCH



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French Pronunciation Guide

a	Often like the “a” sound in “cat”: <u>a</u> rriver, <u>P</u> aris, <u>ch</u> at, <u>m</u> ari	in, ain, im	Like the “an” sound in “rang” without the “g” at the end: <u>vin</u> , <u>prin</u> ce, <u>im</u> possible, <u>tr</u> ain
e	Like the “a” sound in “above”: <u>le</u> , <u>petit</u> , <u>reg</u> arder	C	Before “i” or “e” it sounds like the “s” in “sun”: <u>mer</u> ci, <u>Fra</u> n <u>ce</u> , <u>cert</u> ain
é	Like the “ay” sound in “late”: <u>été</u> , <u>café</u> , <u>thé</u>		Before other letters it sounds like the “c” in “cat”: <u>café</u> , <u>c</u> oton, <u>cr</u> abe
ê	Like the “a” sound in “care”: <u>même</u> , <u>vous ê</u> tes	Ç	Like the “s” in “sun”: <u>gar</u> çon, <u>fran</u> çais
i	Like the “i” in “machine”: <u>il</u> , <u>dix</u> , <u>poli</u> ce, <u>vi</u> lle	ch	Like the “sh” sound in “shirt”: <u>co</u> chon, <u>v</u> ache, <u>chan</u> ter, <u>Ch</u> arles
o	Like the “o” in “holiday”: <u>from</u> age, <u>p</u> omme	g	Before “i” or “e” it sounds like the “s” sound in “measure”: <u>gen</u> darme, <u>gir</u> afe, <u>â</u> ge
u	Round your lips as if to say “oo”, then try to say “ee”: <u>du</u> , <u>u</u> ne, <u>pl</u> us, <u>mu</u> sique		Before other letters it is like the “g” in “get”: <u>gr</u> and, <u>g</u> are, <u>gui</u> tare
eau, au	Like the “oa” sound in “toast”: <u>eau</u> , <u>beau</u> , <u>ga</u> uche, <u>château</u>	gn	Like the “ni” sound in “onion”: <u>camp</u> agne, <u>mont</u> agne
eu	Like the “u” sound in “fur”: <u>deu</u> x, <u>bleu</u> , <u>che</u> veux	j	Like the soft “g” in girafe above: <u>bon</u> jour, <u>jeu</u> ne
ou	Like the “oo” sound in “food”: <u>ou</u> , <u>tou</u> t, <u>beau</u> coup	th	Like the “t” in “top”: <u>thé</u> , <u>thé</u> âtre
oi	Like the “wa” sound in “whack”: <u>vo</u> ix, <u>po</u> isson, <u>bo</u> îte	qu	Like the “k” sound in “kettle”: <u>qu</u> estion, <u>mu</u> sique
on, an	Like “ong” without the “g” sound at the end: <u>dans</u> , <u>bon</u> jour, <u>fran</u> çais, <u>Avi</u> gnon	h	This is not pronounced: <u>hi</u> stoire, <u>h</u> ôpital, <u>h</u> ôtel
un	Like the “u” sound in “sun”. You do not pronounce the “n”: <u>un</u> , <u>chac</u> un		A consonant at the end of a French word is not usually pronounced: <u>fran</u> çais, <u>petit</u> , <u>les</u> , <u>tou</u> t.

Time Phrases and Connectives

For saying when ...

le matin	in the morning
l'après-midi	in the afternoon
le soir	in the evening
à neuf heures	at nine o'clock
à midi	at midday
à minuit	at midnight
maintenant	now
aujourd'hui	today

hier	yesterday	+ PAST TENSE
hier matin	yesterday morning	
avant-hier	the day before yesterday	
la semaine dernière	last week	
l'été dernier	last summer	

demain	tomorrow	+ FUTURE TENSE
demain soir	tomorrow evening	
après-demain	the day after tomorrow	
le weekend prochain	next weekend	
l'année prochaine	next year	

For narrating / sequencing ...

d'abord	first(ly)
après	after
avant	before
pendant	during / for (a length of time)
ensuite	next
puis	then
finalement	finally

For saying how often ...

toujours	always/still
souvent	often
quelquefois	sometimes
rarement	rarely
tous les matins	every morning
tous les soirs	every evening
encore une fois	once again
une fois par jour	once a day
deux fois par semaine	twice a week

For linking clauses ...

et	and
ou	or
où	where
qui	who
mais	but
aussi	also
cependant	however
parce que	because
car	because
puisque	since
donc	therefore

Really Useful French Table

	a(n)	the	some	to/at	my	your (si)	his/her	our	your (pl)	their
masculine	un	le	du	au	mon	ton	son	notre	votre	leur
feminine	une	la	de la	à la	ma	ta	sa	notre	votre	leur
vowel	un/une	l'	de l'	à l'	mon	ton	son	notre	votre	leur
plural	(des)	les	des	aux	mes	tes	ses	nos	vos	leurs

TENSE REFERENCE SHEET

INFINITIVE	PRESENT – what you do	PAST – what you did	FUTURE – what you will do
faire - to do	Je fais	J'ai fait	Je vais faire
jouer - to play	Je joue	J'ai joué	Je vais jouer
manger - to eat	Je mange	J'ai mangé	Je vais manger
visiter - to visit	Je visite	J'ai visité	Je vais visiter
boire - to drink	Je bois	J'ai bu	Je vais boire
lire - to read	Je lis	J'ai lu	Je vais lire
danser - to dance	Je danse	J'ai dansé	Je vais danser
aller - to go	Je vais	Je suis allé(e)	Je vais aller

Examples

PRESENT TENSE

1. Je vais souvent en ville.
2. Je fais de la danse deux fois par semaine.
3. Je lis le journal tous les jours.

PAST TENSE

1. Samedi j'ai joué au football.
2. Hier j'ai mangé trop de chocolat.
3. Le week-end dernier j'ai fait de la natation.

FUTURE TENSE

1. Dimanche je vais faire du vélo.
2. Le weekend prochain je vais aller au centre de sports.
3. Demain je vais manger une pizza avec des frites.

THE PERFECT TENSE

Bonjour

Easy as 1-2-3

1

First comes the subject. This is the person doing the action. Remember:
Je - Tu - Il - Elle - On - Nous - Vous - Ils - Elles
 But it could also be Marc, Celine, Mes parents, La glace, Le professeur
 It is whoever is doing the verb!



2

This is the part of avoir or être, known as the auxiliary.



J'ai
 Tu es
 Il/elle/on a
 Nous avons
 Vous avez
 Ils / elles ont

Je suis
 Tu es
 Il/elle/on est
 Nous sommes
 Vous êtes
 Ils/elles sont

How do you know which one to use?
 If it's one of the **MRS VAN DER TRAMP** verbs (see right), then it's être, otherwise it's avoir.



3

This is the **PAST PARTICIPLE**.

For most verbs (regular verbs) you can follow the simple rules to change the verb to the past participle:

For -ER verbs, take off the ER and add an É Regarder → Regardé

For -IR verbs, take off the IR and add an I Finir → Fini

For -RE verbs, take off the RE and add a U Répondre → Répondu

HOWEVER lots of verbs are irregular and we need to learn the past participles of these. (17 of the Top 20 most used french verbs are irregular!)

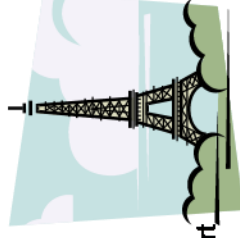
DON'T FORGET TO MAKE THE PP 'AGREE' IF IT IS AN ÊTRE VERB! (see right)

What is the Perfect Tense?

In French you use the Perfect Tense (le passé composé) to say what you have done on a particular occasion in the past.

IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES:

- Apprendre (to learn) - appris
- Avoir (to have) - eu
- Boire (to drink) - bu
- Comprendre (to understand) - compris
- Courir (to run) - couru
- Dire (to say) - dit
- Écrire (to write) - écrit
- Faire (to do) - fait
- Lire (to read) - lu
- Mettre (to put) - mis
- Ouvrir (to open) - ouvert
- Prendre (to take) - pris
- Recevoir (to receive) - reçu
- Voir (to see) - vu



THERE ARE MANY MORE THAN THIS!

DON'T FORGET to make the Past Participle agree with the subject (who is doing the action) if it goes with être.

- For feminine, add an extra E
- For masculine plural, add an S
- For feminine plural, add ES

- Eg. Elle est allée
- Nous sommes allé(e)s
- Ils sont allés



Controlled Assessments - Top Tips

In order to extend your speaking and writing and gain the best marks possible, you should aim to include as many of the following as you can:

1	Wide range of verbs	jouer au/à la/aux, faire du/de la/des, pratiquer, commencer, participer à, réussir à, marquer un but, garder la forme, apprendre, gagner, perdre etc
2	Use of different parts of the verb (talk about others as well as yourself)	je/ j', tu, il/ elle/ on, nous, vous, ils/ elles
3	Reflexive verbs (remember to include the reflexive pronoun)	s'amuser, s'entraîner, s'inscrire à, s'améliorer, se blesser je me , tu te , il/ elle/ on se , nous nous , vous vous , ils se
4	Negatives (remember to put these around the verb) NB: around the helping verb in the past/ future tense)	ne...pas/ ne...plus/ ne... jamais/ ne...rien/ ne...personne il ne joue pas il n'a jamais joué il ne va plus jouer
5	Past tense (make sure you include the correct auxiliary/ helping verb)	j'ai, tu as , il/ elle/ on a , nous avons , vous avez , ils/ elles ont + past participle je suis , tu es , il/ elle/ on est , nous sommes , vous êtes , ils/ elles sont + past participle (+ feminine / plural agreement)
6	Future tense (correct part of aller + infinitive)	je vais , tu vas , il/ elle/ on va , nous allons , vous allez , ils/ elles vont + infinitive
7	Time phrases (appropriate to tense)	le weekend dernier, l'année dernière, hier soir le weekend, le samedi matin, le dimanche après-midi, tous les soirs, trois fois par semaine L'été prochain, la semaine prochaine, ce soir
8	Depuis (+ present tense , even when referring to the past)	J'y joue depuis 5 ans J'en fais depuis 3 ans ...depuis l'âge de 10 ans/ ...depuis que j'ai 10 ans
9	Connectives	et, mais, ou, cependant, donc
10	Subordinate clauses (use question words as connectives to introduce these)	Je suis allé directement à la piscine, où j'ai fait de la natation pendant une heure Mon entraîneur, qui est extrêmement sympa mais très strict aussi, nous oblige de faire 20 pompes avant de commencer
11	Adjectives (with the appropriate m/ f/ pl ending)	content(e)(s) heureux/ heureuse(s)
12	Qualifiers	assez, très, vraiment, trop, un peu,
13	Opinions...	Je me passionne pour, J'adore, Je déteste, J'aime/ Je n'aime pas (beaucoup/ vraiment/ tellement) À mon avis, l'avantage c'est (que).../ l'inconvénient c'est (que)..
14	... and justifications	...because ...parce que/ ...car/ ...puisque it is... c'est... it was... c'était... it will be... ce sera...
15	Comparatives	more/less... than... plus/ moins ... que...

GCSE French – 100 most frequent mis-spellings

Look - Say - Cover - Write - Check

1.	la famille	family	52.	américain	American
2.	la mère	mother	53.	anglais	English
3.	la sœur	sister	54.	espagnol	Spanish
4.	le frère	brother	55.	français	French
5.	le père	father			
			56.	où	where
6.	l'alcool (m)	alcohol	57.	qu'est-ce que	what
7.	la carotte	carrot	58.	quel/quelle	which/what
8.	le chocolat	chocolate	59.	combien	how much
9.	le déjeuner	lunch	60.	pourquoi	why
10.	le gâteau	cake			
11.	les céréales (f)	cereal	61.	ça coûte	that costs
			62.	essayer de	to try to
12.	affreux / affreuse	awful	63.	je reçois / j'ai reçu	I receive / I received
13.	âgé	old	64.	j'espère	I hope
14.	agréable	pleasant	65.	j'étudie	I study
15.	aimable	friendly	66.	je gagne / j'ai gagné	I earn/win, I earned/won
16.	beau / belle	beautiful	67.	je m'appelle	My name is
17.	confortable	comfortable	68.	je préfère	I prefer
18.	favori / favorite	favourite			
19.	gratuit	free (no cost)	69.	l'anniversaire	birthday
20.	intéressant	interesting	70.	l'université	university
21.	mauvais	bad	71.	la bouteille	bottle
22.	meilleur	best	72.	la matière	subject
23.	nouveau / nouvelle	new	73.	le métier	job
24.	paresseux / ..euse	lazy	74.	la musique	music
25.	passionnant	exciting	75.	la terrasse	terrace
26.	plusieurs	several	76.	la vaisselle	washing up
27.	préféré / préférée	favourite	77.	le feuilleton	TV series
28.	vieux / vieille	old	78.	le problème	problem
			79.	le professeur	teacher
29.	mercredi	Wednesday	80.	le théâtre	theatre
30.	samedi	Saturday	81.	les bonbons	sweets
31.	juillet	July	82.	les cheveux (m)	hair
32.	août	August	83.	les vacances (f.pl)	holidays
33.	la semaine	week	84.	un appartement	flat
34.	une année	year	85.	une émission	programme
35.	aujourd'hui	today	86.	quelqu'un	someone
36.	bientôt	soon	87.	quelque chose	something
37.	maintenant	now			
38.	cependant	however	88.	jusqu'à	until
39.	malheureusement	unfortunately	89.	après	after
40.	quelquefois	sometimes	90.	pendant	during
41.	récemment	recently			
42.	tous les jours	every day	91.	amitiés	friendly letter ending
43.	vraiment	really	92.	au revoir	goodbye
			93.	beaucoup	lots
44.	à l'étranger	abroad	94.	ça	that
45.	Allemagne (f)	Germany	95.	ouest	west
46.	Angleterre (f)	England	96.	par exemple	for example
47.	Ecosse (f)	Scotland	97.	parce que	because
48.	Espagne (f)	Spain	98.	peut-être	perhaps
49.	Etats-Unis (m.pl)	USA	99.	s'il vous plaît	please
50.	Londres	London	100.	très	very
51.	Pays de Galles (m)	Wales			

GCSE French – 100 most frequent mis-spellings

Now test yourself!

1. family _____
2. mother _____
3. sister _____
4. brother _____
5. father _____

6. alcohol _____
7. carrot _____
8. chocolate _____
9. lunch _____
10. cake _____
11. cereal _____

12. awful _____
13. old _____
14. pleasant _____
15. friendly _____
16. beautiful _____
17. comfortable _____
18. favourite _____
19. free (no cost) _____
20. interesting _____
21. bad _____
22. best _____
23. new _____
24. lazy _____
25. exciting _____
26. several _____
27. favourite _____
28. old _____

29. Wednesday _____
30. Saturday _____
31. July _____
32. August _____
33. week _____
34. year _____

35. today _____
36. soon _____
37. now _____
38. however _____
39. unfortunately _____
40. sometimes _____
41. recently _____
42. every day _____
43. really _____

44. abroad _____
45. Germany _____
46. England _____
47. Scotland _____
48. Spain _____
49. USA _____
50. London _____
51. Wales _____

52. American _____
53. English _____
54. Spanish _____
55. French _____

56. where _____
57. what _____
58. which/what _____
59. how much _____
60. why _____

61. that costs _____
62. to try to _____
63. I receive / I received _____
64. I hope _____
65. I study _____
66. I earn/win I earned/won _____
67. My name is _____
68. I prefer _____

69. birthday _____
70. university _____
71. bottle _____
72. subject _____
73. job _____
74. music _____
75. terrace _____
76. washing up _____
77. TV series _____
78. problem _____
79. teacher _____
80. theatre _____
81. sweets _____
82. hair _____
83. holidays _____
84. flat _____
85. programme _____

86. someone _____
87. something _____

88. until _____
89. after _____
90. during _____

91. friendly letter ending _____
92. goodbye _____
93. lots _____
94. that _____
95. west _____
96. for example _____
97. because _____
98. perhaps _____
99. please _____
100. very _____

How not to say 'intéressant'

surprenant	surprising
inutile	useless
prévisible	predictable
énervant	annoying
barbant	boring
malsain	unhealthy
propre	clean
frappant	striking
différent	different
mignon	sweet
rigolo	hilarious
parfait	perfect
agréable	nice, enjoyable
passionnant	exciting
d'un calme à mourir	deathly dull
vide	empty
populaire	popular
imposant	impressive
prétentieux	pretentious
sensationnel	stunning
effrayant	scary
dégoutant	disgusting
fort	loud
fou (folle)	mad
reposant	relaxing
paisible	peaceful

How not to say 'intéressant'

utile	useful
décevant	disappointing
stressant	stressful
morne	dull (place)
sain	healthy
sale	dirty
étonnant	amazing
compliqué	complicated
charmant	charming
drole	funny
assommant	deadly dull
satisfaisant	satisfactory
frustrant	frustrating
lent	slow
bruyant	noisy
plein de monde	full of people
ringard	old fashioned
de luxe	luxurious
ordinaire	ordinary
choquant	shocking
horrifiant	horrifying
méchant	nasty (person or animal)
tranquille	quiet
bizarre	odd
divertissant	entertaining
instructif	educational

FRENCH QUESTION WORDS



Est-ce que...?	=	Is...?
Qu'est-ce que?	=	What?
Combien?	=	How much?
Où?	=	Where?
Quand?	=	When?
Comment?	=	How?
Qui?	=	Who?
Quel(le)?	=	Which/What?
À quelle heure?	=	At what time?
Pourquoi?	=	Why?
Pour aller à ...?	=	How do I get to...?



Je voudrais...

I would like...

Tu voudrais...?

Would you like...?

Qu'est-ce que...?

What...?

Avez-vous?

Do you have...?
(polite)

Combien?

How much/
How many?

C'est combien?

How much is it?

Quelle heure est-il?

What time is it?

...commence à
quelle heure?

...starts at what
time?

...finit à quelle
heure?

...finishes at what
time?

Quand?

When?

...ouvre à quelle
heure?

...opens at what
time?

...ferme à quelle
heure?

...closes at what
time?

Est-ce que je
peux...?

Can I...?

Tu aimes...?

Do you like...?

As-tu...?

Do you have...?
(informal)

Pour aller à/au/à
la...?

How do I get to...?

Est-ce que je peux
avoir?

Can I have...?

Est-ce que je peux
réserver?

Can I reserve...?

Est-ce que je peux
essayer?

Can I try...?

Top Tips for Listening and Reading

1. Read the question (including the introduction to the question which gives you the context and sets the scene).
2. Expect unfamiliar language – be ready to ‘de-code’ – don’t give up.
3. Use the pauses in the recording to ‘re-play’ in your mind the language you have just heard, slowing down it down as you do so.
4. Use sound – spelling patterns to help you ‘visualise’ the spelling of an unfamiliar word. It will often reveal itself as a cognate.
5. Look out for synonyms.
6. Look out for cognates and near-cognates.
7. Be aware / wary of negative structures.
8. Consider the type of word (verb / noun / adjective etc) you need for gap-fills – the finished (filled-in) text must make sense grammatically.
9. Make sure you give enough details in the written answers. It is fine to lift directly from the text (you do not need to paraphrase) but make sure what you have said makes sense.
10. Write in English. You will be awarded no marks if you write in French, even if you have understood everything perfectly.

Learning by Heart



learn by heart

A) To learn the meaning of single words/ short phrases:

- match-up cards
- turn & learn cards

B) To learn the spelling of single words/ short phrases:

- Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check
- anagrams/ unjumbles

C) To learn longer phrases/ extended sentences by heart:

- initial letter strings
- cover up sections of the sentence, starting from the end

D) To learn a whole paragraph/ whole text by heart:

- symbols
- reduce text to series of initial letter strings/ key words on cue card & say aloud regularly

Useful language websites for homework and revision

<http://www.linguascope.com/>



- Lots of great games and activities. To log on: username - millthorpe, password - check with your teacher

<http://www.zut.org.uk> - Available for free before 9am and after 4pm. Lots of good exercises for revising vocabulary and grammar.



www.languagesonline.org.uk - Loads of very effective grammar exercises, good vocabulary revision.



www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize - Lots of revision units specifically tailored towards the exam, separated into Foundation and Higher tiers.

www.s-cool.co.uk - Revision activities specifically tailored towards the exams. Better for Foundation than Higher.

<http://revisioncentre.co.uk/> - topics, exam skills, example presentations.

http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Curriculum/modlang/index_students.htm - videos, exercises, links to other websites.

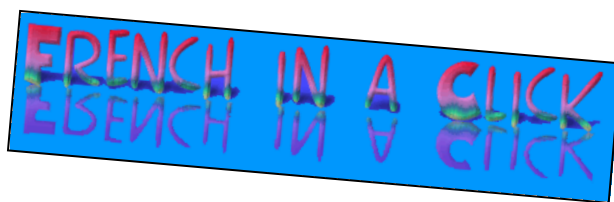
<http://www.gcse.com/>

French Revision

www.frenchrevision.co.uk - Past papers and example exercises from exam papers.

<http://exercices.free.fr/francais/orth/index.htm> - Good exercises for practising accuracy in writing.

<http://www.wildfrench.co.uk/>



<http://www.frenchinaclick.com/> - Only free for the first 7 days, so use it wisely!

<http://www.digitaldialects.com/French.htm> - fun (if slightly odd) games to help you remember the basics.

Digital Dialects

French Language

<http://platea.pntic.mec.es/cvera/hotpot/chansons/> - French pop songs with exercises