



# Teach Language Asynchronously

Reach your students beyond the school day.

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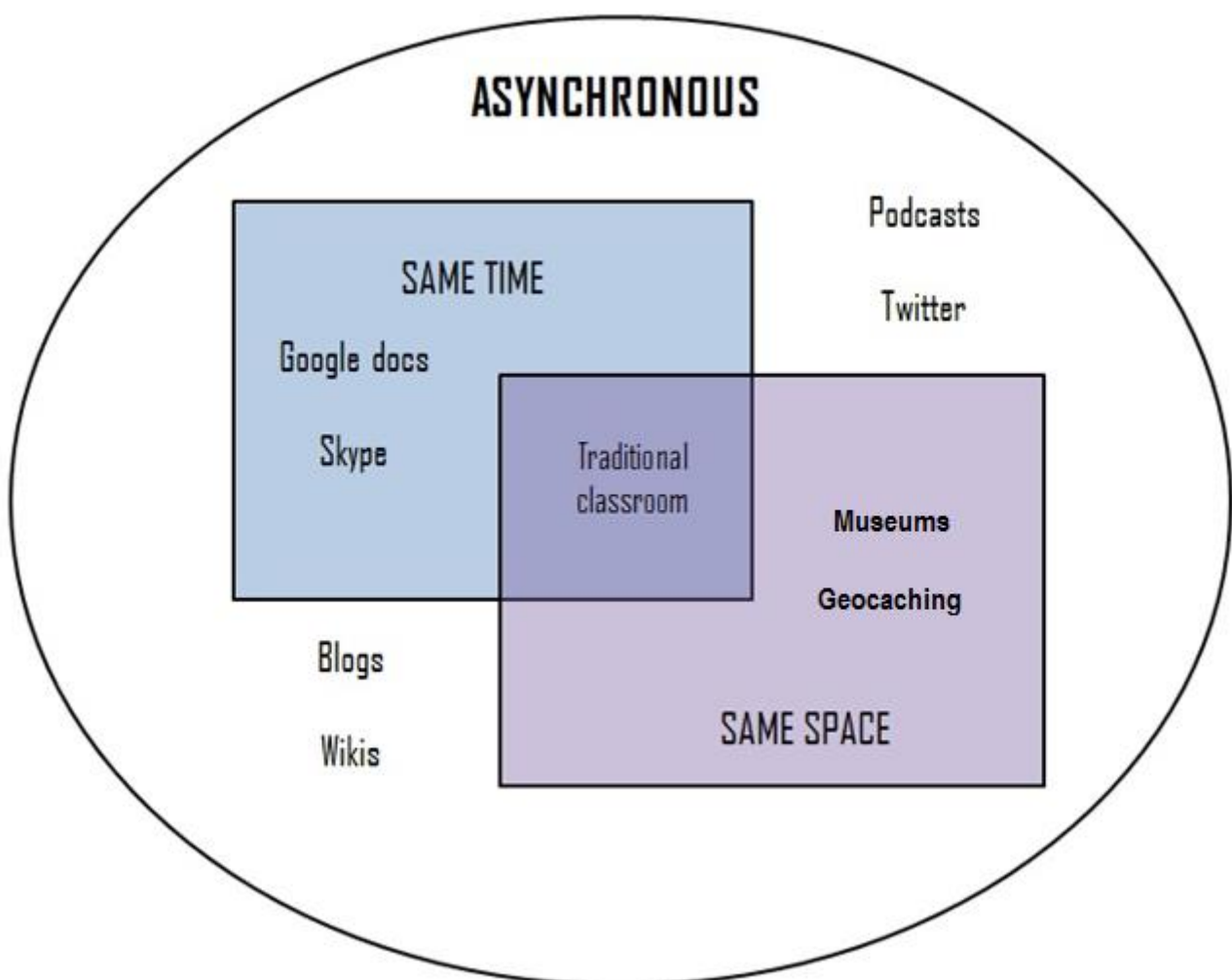
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# What is asynchronous teaching?

**A**synchronous teaching is a student-centered approach that facilitates learning outside of the traditional classroom. This is achieved by incorporating various web-based tools (such as social media, mobile apps, or blogs) that remove time and space restrictions. These asynchronous forms of communication are sometimes supplemented with synchronous components, such as live chat on Skype.

**In this eBook, we'll share our best practices for setting up your online "classroom", including some of our favorite online learning tools.**





# Benefits of Asynchronous Teaching



[Image by Brad Flickinger](#)

## **Flexibility**

Students have unlimited access to the online instructional materials.

## **Reach**

Off-campus students, working professionals, and international learners can all have equal access to the materials.

## **Differentiation**

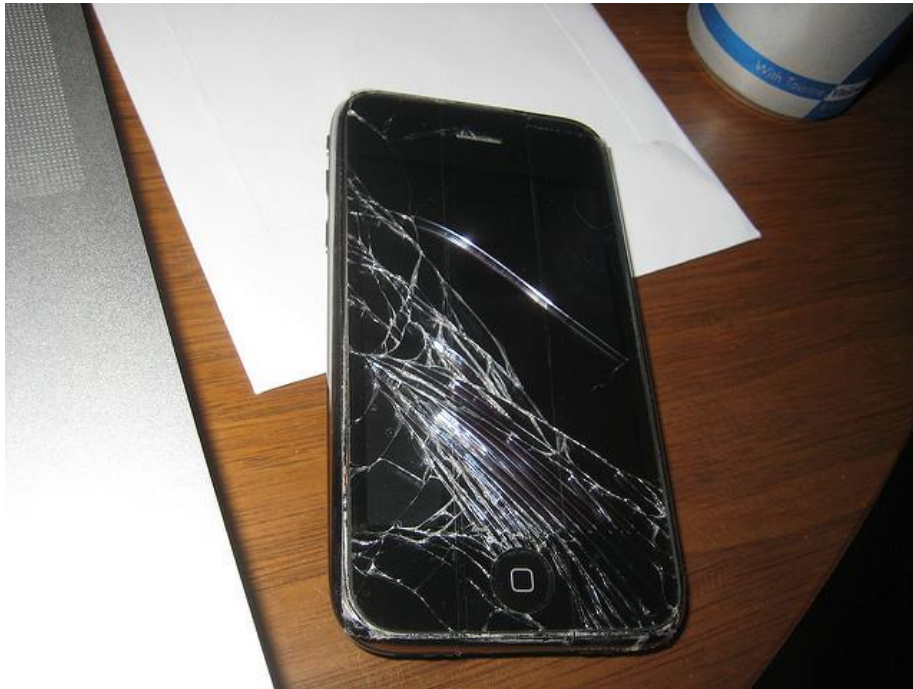
Students can learn at their own pace and in their own style. Those who need more time can take it, while others can speed through.

## **Data**

Online learning platforms often provide a record of class activity so you can account for students' progress and learning.



# Challenges of Asynchronous Teaching



[Image by Jay Tamboli](#)

## **Cost**

Initial set up can be costly in terms of time and money. Teachers need to plan further in advance when using asynchronous methods to ensure the technology is in place.

## **Training**

Teachers and students need to be well-versed in different technologies and platforms.

## **Support**

Even well-trained teachers will need tech support when things go wrong.

## **Access**

Not all students will have equal access to internet, devices, etc. We'll discuss ways to overcome this challenge later in the eBook.





# The 3 Ingredients of an Asynchronous Classroom

Learning Management System (LMS)

Community of Learners

Learning Tasks & Feedback



# Learning Management System

Also called a **Learning Management System (LMS)**, this is your online space where you put all of your *stuff*. A good LMS will provide space or functionality for the following:

- **Learning** – activities, assignments
- **Interaction** – with the material, you, and their peers
- **Discussion** – with you and their peers
- **Assessment** – virtual gradebook, ways to send feedback
- **Report** – share progress with students, parents, administrators, etc.





# Learning Management System

**We recommend spending at least one day (if not more) introducing students to the LMS.** Even if your students are digital natives, walking them through the program and pointing out the different features ensures they're all on the same page.

In addition to the obvious things like learning content and assessments, we also recommend including the following in your LMS:

- **Tutorials:** Create a short video tutorial walking students through the LMS that can be watched throughout the school year if students forget.

- **Announcements:** Share administrative and cultural announcements to establish a strong online presence. Share articles about current events in the target culture, send reminders about assignments, etc.

- **Resource Library:** Include a list of recommended sites and tools, including: online bilingual dictionaries, conjugation tools, reputable target language news sites, etc.

- **Tech Support:** You can't be there 24/7 to help your students with tech problems. Provide contact info for your LMS's tech support hotline or email.

## To create a video tutorial...



We recommend downloading Jing, a free screencasting program that takes a video of your computer screen and uploads it to the web or saves it as a file on your computer.

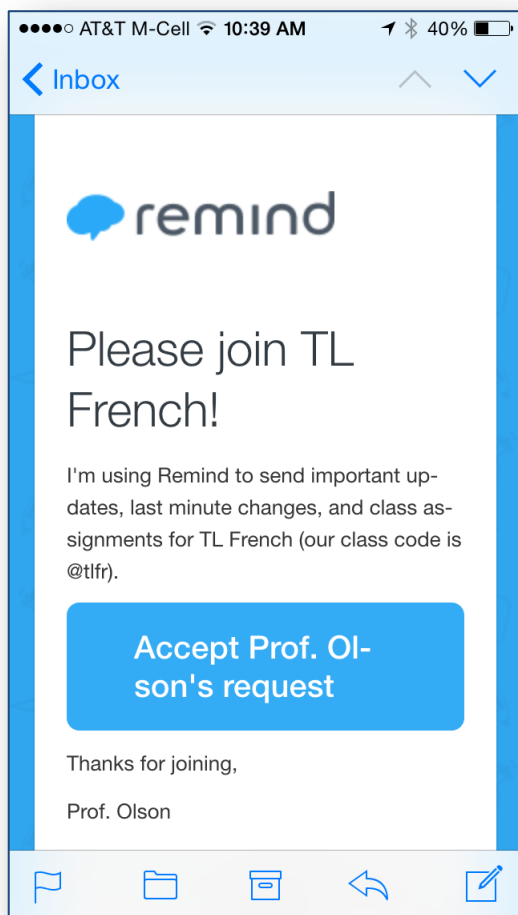
You can easily record with Jing, walk through the LMS, and upload the video to your Tutorials section.





# Community of Learners

Isolation in online learning is always a risk. We know that teachers aren't "always online" waiting for their students, but you can use tools to make it appear so. Take time to connect with your students and create a strong online presence. To foster a sense of community, we recommend:



- **Posting an introductory video:** Make a video (remember: Jing!) in which you introduce yourself, discuss your background with the language, set some expectations for the class, etc. Put a voice and a face to your name.

- **Providing constant contact:** The more students hear from you, the better. You can set up a free account with Remind.com, a simple messaging service that reaches nearly any device. Using Remind, you can send text messages, video messages, and more. The best part: you can queue up these messages in advance! You can schedule assignment reminders, happy holiday texts, and more at the beginning of the semester.



## Roseville HS French

@rosevillefrench

#RHSFrench1 -

quizlet.com/class/638717/ |

#RHSFrench2 -

quizlet.com/class/1080167/ |

#RHSFrench3 -

quizlet.com/class/1080168/ |

#RHSFrench4

📍 Roseville, MI

🔗 [madamebourgeois.yolasite.com](http://madamebourgeois.yolasite.com)

📅 Joined August 2014

📧 Tweet to Roseville HS French



TWEETS  
46

FOLLOWING  
1

FOLLOWERS  
29

LIKES  
7



Follow

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media



Roseville HS French @rosevillefrench · 6 Jun 2015

La pétanque pour le dernier jour d'école!



# Community of Learners

Don't have the budget for an LMS but still want to build a class community and start a discussion? Try Twitter! (Note: this is best used with older students, high-school age and above.)

- **Create a Twitter account** named for your class, such as "Roseville HS French". Ask your students to follow your page, where you can post images, share news articles, tweet a Word of the Day, etc.
- **Create a hashtag** for your class, such as #RHSFrench1 for your first period French class. Ask students to use this hashtag any time they're tweeting to the class—students can follow this hashtag and contribute to the conversation.



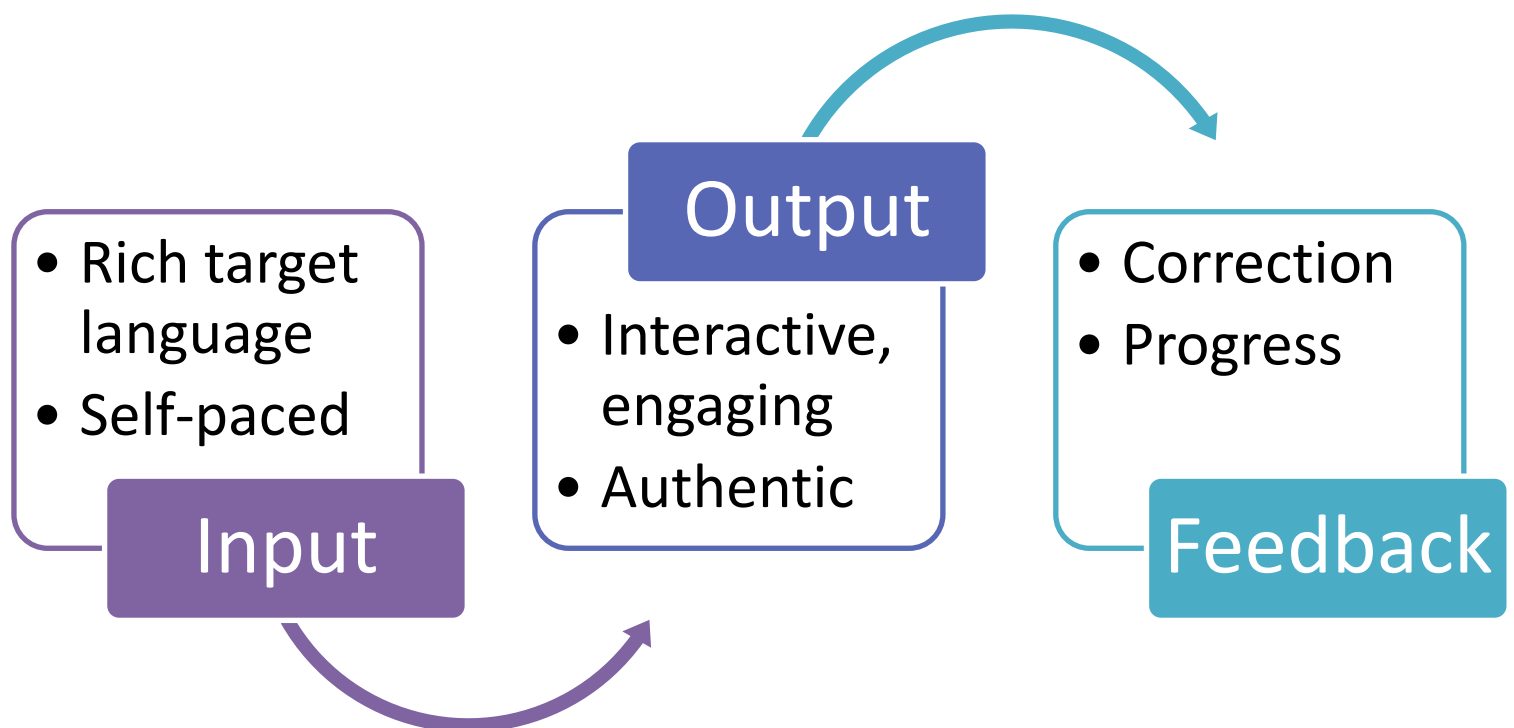
# Instructional Activities

The third ingredient of asynchronous teaching is the meat of the course: the learning materials and instructional activities. What makes for a good activity?

**Input:** Give students some kind of input (or learning material) that uses authentic, relevant language and can be consumed at the learner's own pace.

**Output:** Provide students an opportunity to demonstrate what they've learned.

**Feedback:** Look at the output and use that as an opportunity to provide feedback, both positive and negative.





# Recommended Tools: QUIA

## Listening & Reading Activities

**QUIA** (Quintessential Instructional Archive) is a freemium site, with some features offered free and others requiring a subscription. It's essentially a crowdsourced repository of educational games, quizzes, surveys, and more created and shared by teachers around the world.

You can search by subject (such as your language) and select from existing games and activities, like those shown below, or create your own! Many of the games offered, including matching and flashcard activities, focus on listening and reading skills.

Rank	Title	Author	
1	<a href="#">Jeopardy: Basic French Practice</a>	--	CHALLENGE Test your français
2	<a href="#">Battleship: Les numéros 1-60</a>	--	BATTLESHIP
3	<a href="#">Imparfait vs. Passé Composé</a>	<a href="#">Madame Frissen</a>	QUIZ Fill in the your tense This quiz
4	<a href="#">Food and Drink</a>	--	RAGS TO Learn vo
5	<a href="#">"ER" VERBS BATTLESHIP</a>	<a href="#">Madame Beecroft</a>	BATTLESHIP TRY AND
6	<a href="#">colors</a>	Mme Perkins	HANGMAN
7	<a href="#">AVOIR</a>	Melle Corrigan	RAGS TO Choose t
8	<a href="#">Avoir or être ?</a>	--	POP- Practice
9	<a href="#">Le passé composé</a>	Mlle Seiler	CLO Fill in the parenthe
10	<a href="#">Aller</a>	--	QUIZ This quiz
11	<a href="#">French numbers 1-20 hangman</a>	--	HANGMAN
12	<a href="#">Le passé composé, l'imparfait et le plus-que-parfait</a>	Mme Wieland	QUIZ Choisissez la réponse correcte pour chaque This quiz contains 10 questions.





# Recommended Tools: IPADIO

## Speaking Activities



[iPadio](#) is a free app available for both iOS and Android™ devices that allows you to livestream audio. More interestingly for teachers, it allows you to collect audio data. Students can call a free 800 number from any phone (even an old school rotary phone!) and record a message for you. This is a great way to facilitate asynchronous speaking assignments, since students can place the call at any time and you can log in to iPadio to review on your own time as well.

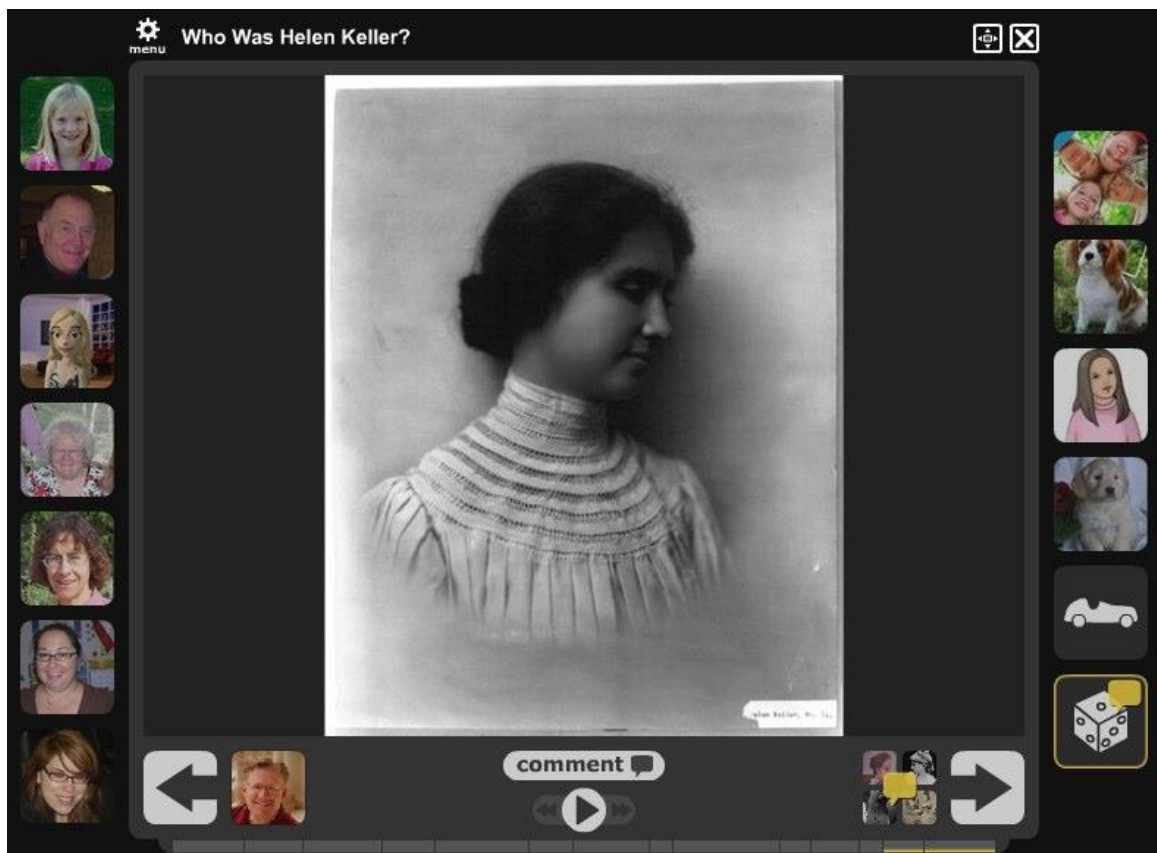




# Recommended Tools: VoiceThread

## Listening, Speaking, Reading, & Writing

[VoiceThread](#) is not free, but it's an affordable app that describes itself as a way to “transform media into collaborative spaces with video, voice, and text commenting.” Grab an image or video, share it with your entire class, and let students contribute via microphone, webcam, text, phone, and audio-file upload. This collaborative platform is great for telling stories, discussing current events in the target culture, etc.





# Recommended Tools:

## Transparent Language Online

### Listening, Speaking, Reading, & Writing



[Transparent Language Online](#) is a one-stop shop for asynchronous language teachers. You can create your own classroom, enroll students, make assignments and assessments, send announcements, see student progress reports, and more.

Best of all, you can work with our content (available in 100+ languages), create your own, or use a mix of both. The platform includes more than a dozen game-like activities that build listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.



# Recommended Tools: Transparent Language Online

## Listening & Speaking Activities

The screenshot shows the 'French • Pronunciation Practice' interface. The title 'se tordre de rire' is displayed. Below it, there are two audio waveforms: 'Native Speaker' and 'You'. The 'You' waveform has a yellow highlight under the first part, labeled 'Areas to review'. To the right of the waveforms is a gauge with a needle pointing to the yellow section, labeled 'How did you do?'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Show Meaning', 'Record your version', 'RETRY', and 'NEXT >'. The progress bar indicates '43 % Complete'.

The screenshot shows the 'Italian • Dictation' interface. The title 'Potrei ave \_\_ un po' d'acqua con ghiaccio, per favore?' is displayed. Below it is an audio waveform. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Choose the Next Correct Letter' with five buttons labeled '1 m', '2 c', '3 s', '4 e', and '5 l'. The 'e' button is highlighted. To the right of the buttons is a button labeled 'Easy Typing' with 'ON' and 'III' indicators. The progress bar indicates '14% complete'.



# Recommended Tools: Transparent Language Online

## Reading & Writing Activities

**German • Matching Fill in the Blank** 0 % Complete

Drag each term in German to its meaning

Keine Panik, es ist nur eine <u>Feuerübung</u> .	✓ Feuerübung
Der <u>Insasse</u> des Fahrzeugs war unversehrt.	✓ Der Insasse
Du musst viel Wasser trinken, wenn du <u>Verstopfung</u> hast.	✓ Verstopfung hast
4 Als sie mich sah, hat sie mich zwei Mal auf die <u>vervollständigst</u> geküsst.	c vervollständigst
5 Du <u>Backen</u> mich.	b Backen

**Russian • Produce & Write It** 33 % Complete

cosmonaut

KO \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Spell the word or phrase

1 Я 2 С 3 Ц 4 Ъ 5 В

Easy Typing I III





# Recommended Tools: Transparent Language Online

## Teacher Tools

Teacher and admin tools in Transparent Language Online were designed to help you create, assign, and track lessons as quickly and efficiently as possible. The average teacher can make a lesson like the one pictured below—complete with text, audio, images, vocab-building activities, comprehension activities, and more—in less than 20 minutes.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Lesson' interface for 'Le Tour de France Lesson'. The top navigation bar includes 'Edit Lesson', 'My Lessons', and 'New Lesson'. The lesson title is 'Le Tour de France Lesson'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Text Details', 'Vocabulary Selection', 'Flash Card Editing', 'Activity Selection', 'Review & Publish', and 'Files & Links'. The 'Vocabulary Selection' tab is active, showing a list of selected vocabulary words: 'épreuve', 'étapes', 'le Tour de France', and 'la plus grande épreuve'. The main text area contains a paragraph about the Tour de France, with some words highlighted in yellow. The bottom of the interface shows a 'Word Count' of 413 and a '75% Low Frequency Words' indicator. There is also a 'Stop Words' section with a 'Hide' button and a 'Show' button.

Highlight your own vocabulary:

Chaque juillet, la plus grande compétition cycliste du monde commence. Elle est appelée **le Tour de France**. Pendant cette compétition très physique, les cyclistes qui viennent de partout dans le monde traversent plus de 3 000 kilomètres. Aussi nommé « la Grande Boucle », elle est composée de plusieurs **étapes**, les plus difficiles sont celles qui se passent en montagne.

Le Tour de France a été créé en 1903, mais l'histoire de cette course remonte à la fin du 19ème siècle avec l'affaire Dreyfus. Richard Dreyfus, qui était juif, était un capitaine dans l'armée française qui a été accusé d'espionnage. Pendant douze ans, cette affaire a déchiré la société française. Elle opposait ceux qui pensaient que Dreyfus était innocent contre ceux qui pensaient qu'il était coupable, le tout dans un contexte antisémite. Le rédacteur en chef du seul quotidien sportif en France était pour Dreyfus, mais son financier était contre. Celui-ci a commencé un nouveau quotidien concurrent. Afin de gagner plus de lecteurs, il l'a titré « **la plus grande épreuve** cycliste jamais organisée ». Il s'agit de Tour de France.

Depuis plus de cent ans de compétition, les règles de cette course ont changé plusieurs fois. Maintenant, elle dure trois semaines et est divisée en vingt-et-un jours de course. Chaque jour est composé d'une étape et chaque étape est différente : il y a des étapes qui sont parfaitement plates et des étapes de montagnes.

Il y a aussi cinq classements différents pendant la compétition : le classement général, le classement du meilleur grimpeur, le classement du meilleur jeune, le classement par équipes, et un challenge de la combativité. Le cycliste qui complète toutes les étapes le plus vite gagne le classement général et porte le prestigieux maillot jaune. Les 198 cyclistes appartiennent à 22 équipes de neuf.

Le peloton est le groupe central des cyclistes. Le terme « les échappées » représente un groupe de cyclistes qui a distancé le peloton.

Cette année la compétition commence à Utrecht au Pays-Bas le 4 juillet avant que les cyclistes arrivent en France. Ils traverseront la côte nord-ouest de la France avant mi-

Word Count: 413 75% Low Frequency Words

Stop Words: Hide Show





**Transparent Language Online was designed with asynchronous teaching in mind. The platform is compatible with desktop devices and tablets and also includes free access to a companion mobile app.**

**TRY IT FREE**