



Glossika Guide to

FRENCH

Pronunciation and Grammar



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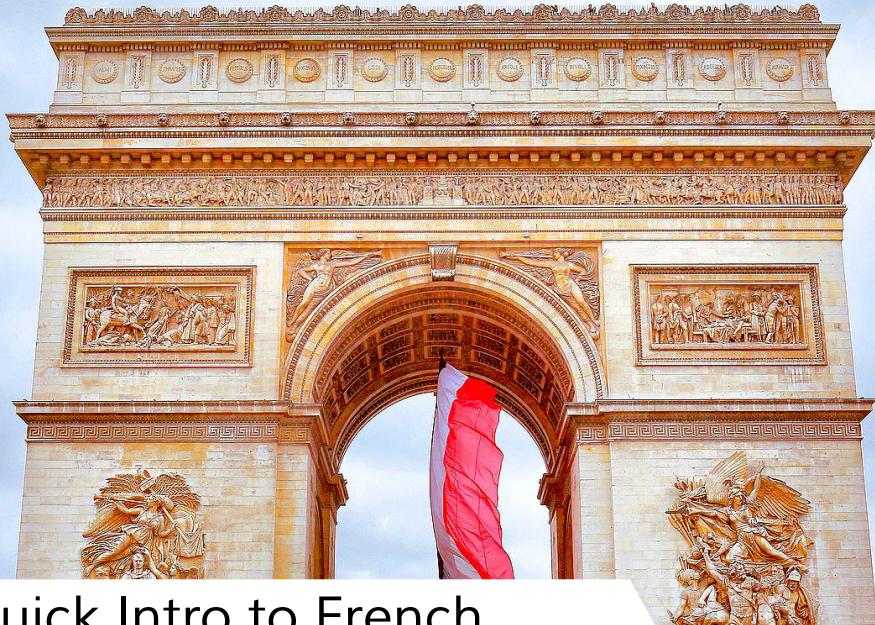
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Quick Intro to French

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French Pronunciation and Orthography

This introduction is based on the Parisian Region (Île-de-France) accent

French sound system

Consonants: p b t̪ t̫ d k̪ g̪ k̫ g̫ ; f v s z ʃ ʒ χ ʁ ʁ̫ ; t̪ʃ dʒ ; l m n ɲ ɳ ɳ̫

Vowels: i y e ø ε a; u o ð œ ð̫ ẽ

Approximants: j w ɥ

Recent Changes in Pronunciation

In recent times, a few sound changes have occurred within the French sound system that you won't find in textbooks and dictionaries:

The [ɑ] that used to be found in the word *pâte* [pat] ('paste') has merged with [a], so *pâte* is now pronounced [pat].

[ɛ:] in *maître* ('master') or *caisse* ('crate') has shortened to: [ɛ]. So these two words are now pronounced: [mɛtʁ] and [kjɛs].

[œ] in *cœur* ('heart') merged with schwa [ə]. So *cœur* is now pronounced [kœʁ].

[ã] is realized as [õ]

[ɛ̃] is realized as [ã]

[ɔ̃] is realized as [ö]

[œ̃] merged with [ã]

[ɲ] is no different from [nj]

[ʁ] is realized as [χ] before or after p, t, k, f, s

[g] becomes palatalised to [ɟ] (sometimes [j]) before a, e, ε, œ, i, ø, y, ẽ

[k] becomes palatalised to [κ] (sometimes [c]) before a, e, ε, œ, i, ø, y, ẽ

Differences between reading French out loud and pronouncing French naturally

From a very young age, French people are taught to read and pronounce French in a “proper” way. Which means pronouncing each word and la *liaison* clearly. But this only applies to reading a text out loud. In a real, natural conversation, it would sound formal and unusual to pronounce every word perfectly. Unfortunately for learners of French, when asked to read a sentence from a text out loud, a native French speaker will remember his academic training and pronounce it the “proper” way, not the natural way.

That is why most textbooks and courses with recordings include the “proper” pronunciation, which is different from the “natural” pronunciation, resulting in the frustration of learners of French in the sense that when listening to real conversations between French people, they are unable to recognize and understand the words and sentences they learned in an academic setting.

To illustrate what I am saying here, if each word and liaison were perfectly pronounced, the sentence: “*Je ne suis pas encore arrivé.*” (‘I have not arrived yet’) would sound like: “[ʒø nø sɥi pa ɔ̃kɔʁ‿aʁiv]”. But in a real life conversation, it would be overly formal to say “ne” and pronounce the liaison. The sentence should sound more like: [ʒø sɥi pa ɔ̃kɔʁ‿aʁiv] or even: [ʒɥi pa ɔ̃kɔʁ‿aʁiv]. In this case, “ne” disappeared as well as the liaison. Sometimes the [ʒ] of *je* becomes [ʃ] and ø also disappears, merging *je suis* into a single word: [ʃɥi].

If you are aware of these sound changes in French you will save yourself a lot of time and exasperation.

French Orthography

When learning French pronunciation, it is not advised to focus one's attention on the spelling of words, as the spelling now generally corresponds to the pronunciation of Old French (1100-1200 CE). Many exceptions occur in the correspondence between the sounds and their spelling, which makes it difficult to know the pronunciation of words based on the way they are written, or even memorize spelling rules.

However, there are some general sound to spelling correspondences that are worth taking a look at. Here is a chart of how to pronounce the various letter combinations you will encounter:

Vowels

a	a, à, â
e	é, ée, e, et
ɛ	ai, aie, e, è, ê, ei
ə	e, œ, œu
i	i, î, ï, ie, y
ø	eu, eû, eue
o	o, ô, au, eau
ɔ	o, u*
u	ou, oue
y	u, û, ue

*The {u} pronounced as /ɔ/ is only found in Latin words ending in -um.

[a]	Il a beaucoup plu à Versaille quand je visitais le château .
[e]	Elle a été honorée et touchée de recevoir ton cadeau.
[ɛ]	J' étais surpris qu'il ait tout terminé hier .
[ə]	Elle a vraiment du cœur .
[i]	Ils ont fini de dîner plus tôt que prévu.
[ø]	Ils étaient nombreux à faire la queue devant le cinéma.
[o]	Je lui ai aussitôt servit un grand verre d' eau .
[ɔ]	Il fait son maximum pour devenir plus fort .
[u]	Où est-ce que je vous rejoins?
[y]	Elle m'a dit que tu as une mauvaise vue .

Semivowels

j	i, y, ll, il
w	w, ou
ɥ	u

[j]	Il est fier de sa fille .
[w]	Oui , il me l'a avoué.
[ɥ]	C'est à lui de continuer.

Nasal vowels

ã	an, am, en, em, ean, aon
ɛ̃	in, im, ain, aim, ein, eim, yn, ym, (i)en
õ	on, om
[ã]	Il ont beaucoup d' enfants .
[ɛ̃]	J'ai fait du pain perdu ce matin .
[õ]	Je n'arrive pas à me souvenir de son nom .

Consonants

b	b, bb
d	d, dd
f	f, ff
g	g, gg
gj / ʃ	g, gg
k	k, c, cc, q, qu, ch
kj / c	k, c, cc, q, qu, ch
l	l, ll
m	m, mm

ŋ	n, nn
ɲ	gn
p	p, pp
r	r, rr
ʁ	r, rr
X	r, rr
s	s, ss, sc
ʃ	ch, sh
t	t, tt, th
t ^{hj}	t + u, t + i
v	v, w
z	z, s
ʒ	j, g
dʒ	dj, j, dg (loan words)
ŋ	ng, n (loan words)
tʃ	tch, ch, ci (loan words)

[b]	Boire de la bière c'est son hobby préféré.
[d]	J'ai des amis bouddhistes .
[f]	Il ne faut pas s'affoler .
[g]	Je n'ai jamais vu un gorille en vrai.
[gj / ʃ]	Je fais mon jogging tous les matins
[k]	En ce moment, j'apprends le coréen .
[ki / c]	Elle ne boit que du café .
[l]	Elle s' appelle Claire.
[m]	Il m'a recommandé ce film.
[n]	Tout était inondé .
[ɲ]	J'adore aller à la campagne .
[p]	Il apprend le portugais .
[ʁ]	J'ai arrêté de fumer.
[χ]	C'est très intéressant.
[s]	Il habitent en Suisse depuis des années.
[ʃ]	Elle préfère les chats aux chiens .
[t]	C'est ça ta théorie ?
[v]	Tu vas t'asseoir dans quel wagon ?

[z]	Je commence à partir de zéro .
[ʒ]	Il a déjà atteint un certain âge .
[dʒ]	C'est son adjoint .
[ŋ]	On fait du camping tous les ans.
[tʃ]	Ce soir il y a un match de foot à la télé.

Unpronounced final consonants

In written French, the final consonant is often not pronounced, and there is no definite rule to know when to pronounce it or not, which is something that even French children find difficult when learning how to read and write their own language. There are, however, a few general points that will help you recognize unpronounced consonants more quickly.

The **CAREFUL** rule: The letters C, R, F, and L are usually pronounced: *un truc* [œ̃ tʃyk] ('a thing/trick'), *un mur* [œ̃ myʁ] ('a wall'), *sauf* [sof] ('except'), *culturel* [kyltyʁel] ('cultural').

However, the **final r** for verb infinitives in the first group are not pronounced: *donner* [done] ('to give'), *demander* [dømɑ̃de] ('to ask'), *trouver* [tʃuve] ('to find'), *rester* [rɛste] ('to stay/remain')

The **final s** is generally not pronounced in French, like in: *anglais* [oglɛ] ('English'), *plusieurs* [plyzjəʁ] ('several'), *toujours* [tuʒuʁ] ('always/still')

But there are exceptions to this rule: *sens* [sɛ̃s] ('sense'), *un ours* [œ̃n uʁs] ('a bear'), *un virus* [œ̃ viʁys] ('a virus')...

Tous & Plus

Tous

The s in tous is pronounced when it is an **indefinite pronoun**: Ce sont tous mes amis. [sø sõ t̪us mez ami] ('These are all my friends.'), Ils sont tous arrivé. [il sõ t̪us aʁive] ('They've all arrived.'')

The s in tous is pronounced **at the end of a sentence**: - Tous tes amis sont venu ? - Oui, tous. [- t̪u t̪ez ami sõ vøny ? - wi, t̪us] ('Did all your friends come? Yes, all of them.'')

The s in tous is not pronounced when it is an **indefinite adjective**: Je prends le métro tous les jours. [ʒø px̪ɔ̃ lmetʁo t̪u le ʒuʁ] ('I take the subway every day.'), Tous les ans c'est la même chose. [t̪u lez p̪ se la mɛm ſoz] ('Every year it's the same thing.'')

Plus

The s in plus is not pronounced when **the sentence is negative**: Il n'y en a plus. [il n̪j ðn̪ a ply] ('There's no more.') Ce n'est plus la peine. [sø ñe ply la pɛn̪] ('It's not necessary anymore.'')

The s is not pronounced in **a comparison** when the adjective that follows begins with a consonant: Elle est plus courageuse que lui. [el e ply kuʁasjøz kiø l̪i] ('She's braver than he is.'')

In a comparison, if the adjective that follows **starts with a vowel**, then plus is pronounced [plyz]: Ils sont plus intelligent. [il sõ plyz eteliʒɑ̃] ('They are more intelligent')

The s is **pronounced anywhere else**: Tu en veux plus ? [t̪ø vø plys ?] ('You want some more?'), Je mange plus que toi. [ʒø mɔ̃ʒ plys kiø t̪wa] ('I eat more than you do.'')

An interesting example for comparison would be:

J'en veux plus. [ʒø vø plys] ('I want more.'')

J'en veux plus. [ʒø vø ply] ('I don't want any more.') → negative, so s is not pronounced

Stress and intonation

If you read up on French intonation, most descriptions say that French stress falls on the final syllable of a word. However, this is not always true, even for the author. Stress and intonation vary according to individuals, their mood, age, and place of origin. There are so many variations that it is not really possible to define a specific rule. The best way to get a good sense of stress and intonation in French is to mimic native speakers and naturally learn from context.

Etymology

You already know a lot of French words before you even begin. It is well known that an important part of the English vocabulary comes from Latin and Old French. So both English and French now share a large number of words in common, which makes it easier for English speakers to remember French words and vice versa. There are transparent words which are spelled the same in the two languages and carry the same meaning, like: *information, comfortable, visible* etc. There are also false friends which are words that are spelled and sound very similar but carry different meanings: *library/librairie, habit/habit, journée/journey* etc.

Although French and English have false friends, they share so many words in common that when learning French, past the first beginner stage, the acquisition of vocabulary comes swiftly and naturally.

Etymology is the study of word histories, and it helps you save countless hours of memorization to master a few regular sound changes. This will allow you to recognize many words on first encounter.

In French many words from Latin origin with *-sp-*, *-sc-* and *-st-* clusters, the s became an *accent circonflexe* placed on the vowel before them, while in English the same words from the same Latin origin, the s remained.

hospital	→	hôpital
hostel	→	hôtel
castle	→	château
forest	→	forêt

In words that start with such a cluster, the *s-* became *é-* as in:

school	→	école
student	→	étudiante

Words ending with **-ity** in English end with **-ité** in French, they also usually are feminine words:

integrity	→	intégrité
fidelity	→	fidélité
mobility	→	mobilité
flexibility	→	flexibilité

There are many more of these sound correspondences. As you learn more vocabulary, try making your own list. The process of discovery is a good way to set them in long-term memory.



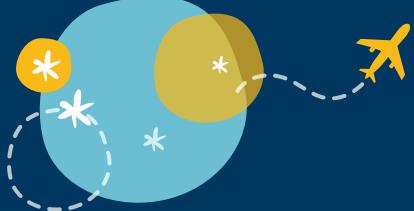
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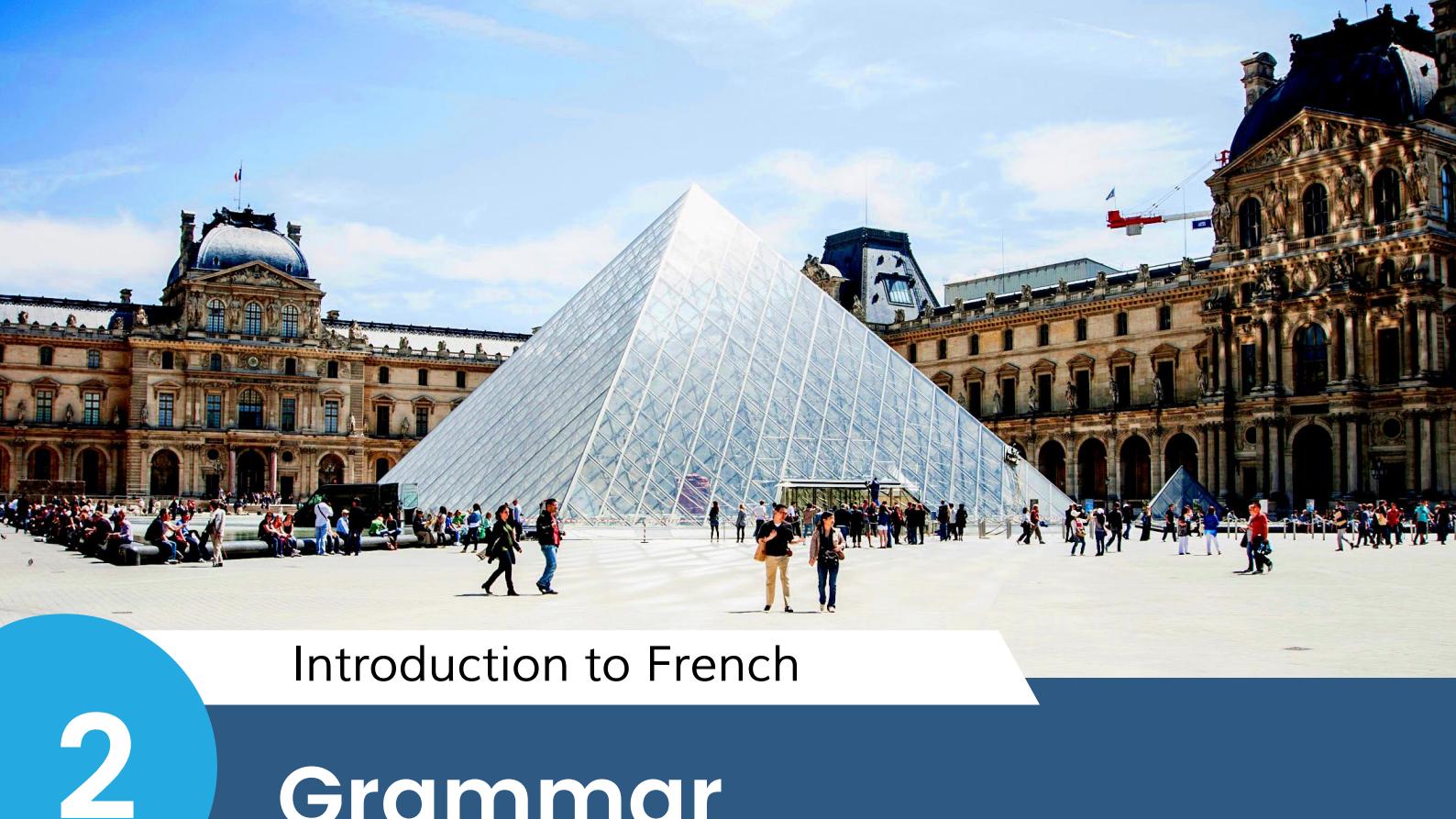
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Introduction to French Grammar

Word Order

The word order in French is the same as English word order.

Subject - Verb - Object

Je mange une pomme

('I eat an apple')

Adjective Order

In French, the noun comes first and the adjective after.

Noun - Adjective

Un chat noir.

('A cat black')

But there is an exception to this rule when the adjective refers to some specific qualities and therefore comes before the noun. These qualities may be remembered as **BAGS**:
Beauty, Age, Goodness, Size.

Adjective - Noun

Une belle femme.

A beautiful woman.

Un vieil homme.

An old man.

Un bon film.

A good movie.

Une grande table.

A big table.

Here is a list of some basic **adjectives** in French.

English	French
a lot	beaucoup
bad	mauvais
bitter	amer
cheap	pas cher
clean	propre
correct	correct
damp	humide
dark	sombre
deep	profond
difficult	difficile
dirty	sale
dry	sec
easy	facile
empty	vide
expensive	cher
few	peu

fresh	frais
full	plein
good	bon
great	grand
hard	dur
heavy	lourd
high	haut
light	léger
local	local
long	long
loud	bruyant
mild/soft	doux
narrow	étroit
new	nouveau
old	vieux
powerful	puissant
quick	rapide

salty	salé
short	court
slender	mince
slow	lent
small	petit
some	quelques
sour	aigre
spicy	épicé
still/calm	calme
thick	épais
very	très
weak	faible
wide	large
wrong/fake	faux
young	jeune

Parts of Speech

In French, there are masculine, feminine and plural definite and indefinite articles.

	Definite	Indefinite
Masculine	le	un
Feminine	la	une
Plural	les	des

The **definite articles** *le* and *la* correspond to *the* in English.

Le loup

The wolf

La voiture

The car

When the nouns are **plural**, in English the definite article is always *the*. But in French, plural has its own definite article: *les*.

Les loups

The Wolves

Les voitures

The Cars

The **indefinite articles** *un* and *une* correspond to *a* or *an* in English.

Un livre

A book

Une orange

An orange

English does not have a **plural indefinite article**. But plural or singular, French nouns always come with an article. In this case the plural indefinite article is *des*.

Des livres

Books

Des oranges

Oranges

To describe something that can be divided into smaller parts, French uses: *du*, *de la*, *de l'*. They are called **partitive articles**.

Du - if the following noun starts with a consonant.

Ex: du pain, du riz, du lait, du chocolat...

De la - if the following noun is feminine and starts with a consonant.

Ex : de la farine, de la pâte...

De l' - if the following noun, feminine or masculine, starts with a vowel.

Ex: de l'eau, de l'alcool, de l'huile...

Genders

In French, there is no rule or logic to know when the words are feminine or masculine. French children never learn a noun by itself, they learn them in blocks and instinctively know which article goes with which noun. Hearing the wrong article would make the whole word sound wrong, exactly like it would sound wrong in English if someone said: *an banana or a hour.*

However, some word categories only have masculine or feminine words, and sometimes patterns emerge and some word endings are more frequent in masculine or feminine words.

Common Masculine Endings:

Days, months, seasons and language names are usually masculine. Here are some common word endings for masculine words:

-eur, -ien, -acle, -ail, -at, -eau, -ege, -eil, -eme, -er, -ice, -ier, -in, -isme, -ment, -o, -oir, -ou, -our, -age

Common Feminine Endings:

Science-related words are usually feminine. Here are some common word endings for feminine words:

-esse, -euse, -iere, -trice, -ade, -aie, -aille, -aine, -aison, -ance, -anse, -ee, -ence, -ense, -elle, -esse, -iette, -eur, -ie, -iere, -ille, -ine, -ise, -sion, -tion, -te, -tie, -tude, -ue, -ure, -age

If you are familiar with other European languages such as Spanish or Russian or Italian, you may know that words ending in *-a* are typical of feminine gender. It is useful to know that the etymology of *-a* endings arrived in their Modern French form as *-e*.

Compound Word Gender

How do French apply gender to compound nouns? It usually goes according to the **first** noun in the compound:

Verb + Noun (porte-avions): masculine

Word + Noun (contrepoids): masculine plurals, otherwise intended gender (contre-partie)

Verb + Verb (laissez-passer): masculine

Phrase (va-et-vient): masculine

Plurals

French plurals usually end in: -s, -aux, -x, -eux.

In spoken French, noun endings will sometimes change depending if they are plural or singular. For example, a noun ending in *-al* will become *-aux*.

Il y a un cheval. / Il y a des chevaux.

C'est un animal. / Ce sont des animaux.

Most of the time an s is simply added to the end of the noun, but not pronounced. In that case, you can tell if the noun is plural when a plural article comes before it.

Il y a un chien là-bas. / Il y a **des** chiens là-bas. [j‿a de sjɛ la ba]

Un ami arrive. / **Des** amis arrivent. [dez‿ami aʁiv]

Pronouns

French has 9 pronouns: 5 singular and 4 plural.

Singular	Plural
je	nous
tu	vous
il, elle, on	Ils, elles

Formal vs Informal Speech

As you may already know, there are two levels of speech in French. The informal level is called *tutoiement* (*tu*) in French, and the formal one *vouvoiement* (*vous*).

To show respect to a stranger, usually someone that you meet for the first time, it is advised to use *vouvoiement*, until you agree on using *tutoiement* with each other.

To use *vouvoiement* in French, all you really have to do is use *vous* instead of *tu* when addressing to the person you wish to show more respect to.

Vouvoiement (formal): **Vous allez** bien ? ('How are you doing?')

Tutoiement (informal): **Tu vas** bien ? ('How are you doing?')

Nous vs On

In French, *nous* used to mean we, and still does in the written form. But it is less common in casual conversation between friends and family. Instead, French people now tend to use **on** instead of *nous*. *On* means *one* in English and was originally used to describe a more global sense of we, like in the English sentence: “*One has to keep one’s body healthy*”.

So in French: “**On** va voir un film?” which literally translates: “One goes to see a movie?” actually means: “Are **we** going to watch a movie?”

In the case of **reflexive verbs** (French: ‘*verbes pronominaux*’), you just have to know how to conjugate 1 reflexive verb to be able to make the change between *nous* and *on*.

Se laver ('to wash oneself')

Je	me lave
Tu	te laves
Il, elle, on	se lave
Nous	nous lavons
Vous	vous lavez
Ils, elles	se lavent

So if you were to say: **Nous nous** lavons tous les jours ('We wash ourselves everyday') using *on*, you would just have to replace **nous nous** lavons ('we wash ourselves') by **on se** lave ('one washes himself/herself'): **On se** lave tous les jours.

Verbs

Verb conjugations in French are complex, and seem to be a nightmare for any person who wants to learn French. However, you don't need to learn all the conjugations, only the forms that you will need in your day-to-day life. French people themselves do not know all their conjugations and do not try to know. As a native French speaker myself, I can tell you that I regularly forget how to conjugate very simple verbs when I haven't used them for a long time, and I do not worry about it at all. You only need to know what you use everyday, and what you use everyday you will know quickly enough.

French conjugated verbs have different endings depending on which verb group they belong. There are 3 verb groups in French. Fortunately, 85 to 90% of all French verbs belong to the first group. So by naturally learning how to conjugate the verbs from the 1st group like *manger*, you will quickly grasp the conjugation patterns of many French verbs.

Here is the conjugation for the present tense of the verb *arriver* ('to arrive'):

j'	arrive
tu	arriv <u>e</u> s
il, elle, on	arrive
nous	arriv <u>on</u> s
vous	arriv <u>ez</u>
ils, elles	arriv <u>ent</u>

Notice the verb endings: -e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent. Most of the 1st group verb in French will have the same endings in the present tense. Here is the conjugation of *modifier* ('modify'), also from the 1st group:

Modifier ('to modify')

je	modifie
tu	modifie <i>s</i>
il, elle, on	modifie
nous	modifi <i>on</i> s
vous	modifie <i>ez</i>
ils, elles	modifi <i>en</i> t

The endings are the same as in *manger*: -e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent

Remembering how to pronounce these conjugations gets even easier when you know that the final e is silent in French, and so among the present tense endings: -e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent, only **-ons** [õ] and **-ez** [e] sound different from the others. It makes a verb like *modifier* sound like it only has two conjugations:

je modifie	[modifi]
tu modifie <i>s</i>	[modifi]
il, elle, on modifie	[modifi]
nous modifi <i>on</i> s	[modifjõ]

vous modifiez	[modifje]
ils, elles modifient	[modifi]

And that also works with other tenses, like *imparfait* in this case:

je modifi a <ins>is</ins>	[modifiε]
tu modifi a <ins>is</ins>	[modifiε]
il, elle, on modifi a <ins>it</ins>	[modifiε]
nous modifi ions	[modifi i ɔ̃]
vous modifi iez	[modifi e]
ils, elles modifi ia <ins>ient</ins>	[modifiε]

In addition, some tenses like *passé simple*, *passé antérieur*, *subjonctif imparfait* and *subjonctif plus-que-parfait* are not used orally or even much in writing. Growing up, French children do not memorize anything, they just learn what they need to use on a daily basis, little by little.

Here is a trick that will allow you to quickly learn how to use the *futur proche* ('near future') in French, which is used to describe actions that will happen very soon, a bit like "going to + infinitive" in English.

Learn the present tense conjugation for the verb *aller* ('to go') in French, and add any other infinitive after the conjugation to express: *I'm going to...*

je	vais
tu	vas
il, elle, on	va
nous	allons
vous	allez
ils, elles	vont

Je vais danser

I'm going to dance

Ils vont aller au cinéma.

They are going to go to the movie theater.

Tu vas commencer en premier.

You're going to start first.

add a note about the verb conjugation pronunciations, which endings are pronounced?

Most Essential Verbs

Here are some essential verbs in French that you will likely encounter in daily life.

English	French
take, give, bring	prendre, donner, apporter
borrow, lend	emprunter, prêter
teach, learn	enseigner, apprendre
go/walk, come, return	aller/marcher, venir, revenir
go (by vehicle)	aller (par le biais d'un équipement)
run, swim, fly	courir, nager, voler
leave, arrive	partir, arriver
sit, stand	s'asseoir, se lever, se tenir debout
wake, sleep, laugh	se réveiller, dormir, rire
eat, drink	manger, boire
see, hear	voir, entendre
watch, listen	regarder, écouter
read, write	lire, écrire

speak [language], say [word], talk/chat	parler [langue], dire [mot], parler/bavarder
meet	rencontrer
wait	servir
live, stay	vivre, rester
work, study, learn	travailler, étudier, apprendre
change, fix, clean	changer, réparer, nettoyer
turn on, turn off	allumer, éteindre
open, close	ouvrir, fermer
love, like	aimer, aimer bien
buy, sell	acheter, vendre
put on, take off	porter, enveler
get on, get off	monter, descendre

Basic Patterns Using a Verb

Here are some basic patterns with the verb manger that you can also use with other French verbs.

English	French
I eat every day.	Je mange tous les jours.
I'm eating now.	Je suis en train de manger.
I'll eat tomorrow.	Je mangerai demain.
I ate yesterday.	J'ai mangé hier.
I've eaten already.	J'ai déjà mangé.
I don't eat every day.	Je ne mange pas tous les jours.
I'm not eating now.	Je ne suis pas en train de manger.
I won't eat tomorrow.	Je ne mangerai pas demain.
I didn't eat yesterday.	Je n'ai pas mangé hier.
I haven't eaten yet.	Je n'ai pas encore mangé.

Adverbs

French adverb formation and placement are very similar to English.

Adverbs that end in **-ly** in English usually end in **-ement** or **-ment**.

precisely	→	précisément
intentionally	→	intentionnellement
completely	→	complètement
really	→	vraiment
exactly	→	exactement

Here is a list of some basic French adverbs.

English	French
again/more	encore
almost	presque
already	déjà
always	toujours
anywhere	n'importe où
barely	à peine



coming week	semaine prochaine
definitely	absolument
enough	assez
especially	surtout
everywhere	partout
fast	rapide
from time to time	de temps en temps
immediately	immédiatement
later	plus tard
never	jamais
nowhere	nulle part
often	souvent
once in a while	parfois
quickly	rapidement
rarely	rarement
recently	récemment
right now	maintenant

slowly	lentement
soon	bientôt
then	puis
these days	en ce moment
this morning	ce matin
today	aujourd'hui
together	ensemble
tomorrow	demain
tonight	ce soir
usually	habituellement
very	très
yesterday, the day before	hier, la veille

Prepositions

Here is a list of some basic French prepositions.

English	French
according to	selon
across	à travers
after	après
against	contre
around	autour de
as much as	autant que
as well as	aussi bien que
at	à
because of	à cause de
because of	en raison de
before	avant
below	en dessous
between	entre
despite	malgré
except	sauf
for	pour
from/as of	à partir de

in	dans
in front of/facing	en face de
inside of	à l'intérieur de
instead	au lieu de
like	comme
more/plus	plus
near	près de
next to/by	à côté de
on	sur
outside of	à l'extérieur de
per/by	par
since	depuis
than/that	que
towards	vers
until/up to	jusqu'à
upcoming	prochain
with	avec
without	sans

Negation

Negation in French is expressed with three words: **non**, **ne** and **pas**.

Non means *no*, and it is used the same way as *no* in English.

Ne and *pas* both carry the meaning of *not* in English. They surround the verb, one goes before the verb and one goes after:

Je **ne** mange **pas**.

I **not** eat **not**. ('I do not eat')

If the verb starts with a vowel, *ne* becomes *n'*

Je **n'aime pas** ça.

I **not** like **not** that. ('I do not like that')

Having to use these two words to express negation might sound a little confusing for learners of French, but the good news is that in spoken French, *ne* is rarely used. It sounds kind of formal or theatrical to use it orally, so most people drop it.

Je **ne** mange **pas** → Je mange **pas**.

Je **n'aime pas** ça → J'aime **pas** ça.



3

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French

Listening



He's on the other line.

Il est sur l'autre ligne.

Pronunciation : Il est sur l'autre ligne.

Phonics : il e syʊ lot̪_lɪn.



Most learners traditionally spend a lot of time on a single sentence trying to get it right, trying to figure out the grammar or the patterns, even memorizing all its parts and vocabulary. This requires lots of memorization and written puzzles and quizzes. This doesn't necessarily lead to fluency because all of this work doesn't automatically internalize into an audio pattern that you can recognize or even say.

It comes down to getting enough exposure to the spoken sounds of the language. This is a trees vs forest problem. Instead of seeing the big patterns (the forest) you may be stuck on analyzing a single leaf on one of the trees. Why spend so much time on a single anomaly?

If you look at hundreds and thousands of leaves in a forest, you begin to see patterns, you begin to differentiate old vs young leaves, you even get an idea of the kinds of trees they grow on. And then you start to wonder how to explain the details you often see in common among all the leaves, things you may have never noticed by just looking at a single or even a dozen leaves. The more you do, the more of the general patterns become obvious, and the more you want to know about the details.

This becomes a positive feedback loop fulfilling your desire to fill in the details of your knowledge. You become more and more of an expert without having to memorize anything.

Guaranteed 3-Step Method to Fluency

Imagine a situation where all the patterns in a foreign language have already been prepared and laid out for you in an easy to learn order. You'd be hard pressed to find this in a grammar book or even a publication with thousands of examples.

1

Now even if you did find such a resource, you'd definitely want to have all the examples ordered by difficulty in a way that it would make it easy for you to pick up. Once you have all the data entered into a computer you could either pick apart the grammar of each sentence or do some other tricks and try to program it yourself. But this may be way too much work, especially if you just want to get started with the basics.

2

Once you've got all the data in the right order, you'll want a native speaker who could sit patiently and train you to say each sentence until you could say them equally as fluently. But finding such a person with this amount of patience is not easy, not to mention downright expensive.

You could ask your tutor or teacher to say all of the examples so that you could record them for later practice. You'd want to get the recordings done in a professionally recorded environment, which can also be very expensive.

3

Next, you'd want a really advanced spaced repetition program that could deliver this content to you at the right pace, the right speed, and could even adjust to your specific needs by adding and deleting content as you provide feedback. You'd probably want it all available on your mobile device so that you could take the audio training anywhere you go.

If the foreign language is written in a different script like Chinese, you have extra hurdles to deal with: how do you get all of the text transcribed into its exact pronunciations? Is there a way to learn the correct pronunciations?

This is the solution that Glossika has already built. Glossika has thought about every pitfall you may encounter along the way. Not only have we curated and recorded all the content across dozens of languages, but we have machine learning algorithms sorting the data, delivering the data through spaced repetition, and adjusting to your learning speed.

Speak First, Read Later

The amazing part is, with Glossika you can actually learn how to speak a language before even learning how to read it. We can train you to speak everything completely through audio. Besides, learning how to read is a breeze once you already know how to speak a language. It's much more of a challenge to learn how to speak by reading first.

If you're about to start a college course, or start working with a teacher, you'd be at a considerable advantage of getting lots of audio training done on your own time. The next time you meet for class, you can spend that time wisely by getting great explanations from your teacher about the tough parts you don't understand yet, or just plain getting lots of conversation practice. The best part about having a real person talk to you is that it's real life conversation. And that drives better results than a teacher explaining so much grammar that you're not likely to remember anyway.

Speak First, Grammar Falls into Place Naturally

So how does Glossika deliver grammar then? If you're used to speaking a certain way, then the grammar flows naturally. Let's take for example the last sentence: "if you're used to speaking". How do you know that "used to" has "ed" or is past tense, or why don't you say "if you're use to spoken" -- why do you say that one particular way and no other way? Does it come out naturally when you speak English, or do you think about adding the "ed" and the "ing"? How do you know these things. Ask a six or seven year old child. How do they know? And do they say it right? Every time? So what is grammar?

Grammar is simply describing something that already happens: how people already talk. Grammar didn't come first. The talking did. Everybody speaks a certain way, therefore we can write down grammar rules to describe what's happening.

What Glossika does is introduce you to phrases like "used to speaking" in foreign languages and you practice saying that to the point where you say it naturally and easily with all the grammar intact. In fact, you didn't even have to learn any grammar to say it correctly. All you need to do is mimic.

Eventually the patterns emerge out of hundreds and thousands of these examples to the point where you have complete control and manipulation over every sentence you want to say in the foreign language.

These are the results that Glossika delivers.

Start Saving Your Valuable Time

You could think about going back to your classes and doing everything the old way. Memorizing lots of vocabulary and having your teachers explain all the concepts one by one. It really does take years of such classes.

Or you could make a decision to focus on audio patterns and learning how to say each one until you're comfortable. It really only takes a few months of your time practicing for a few minutes every day.

Think about the massive difference this could make in your life, and how soon you could be achieving your goals with Glossika. It's so easy to get started. [Sign up](#) now and get 7-day access to premium features for free!

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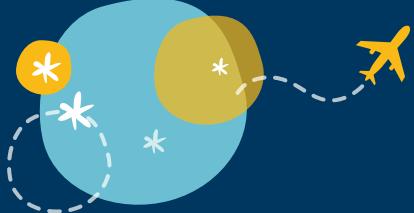
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