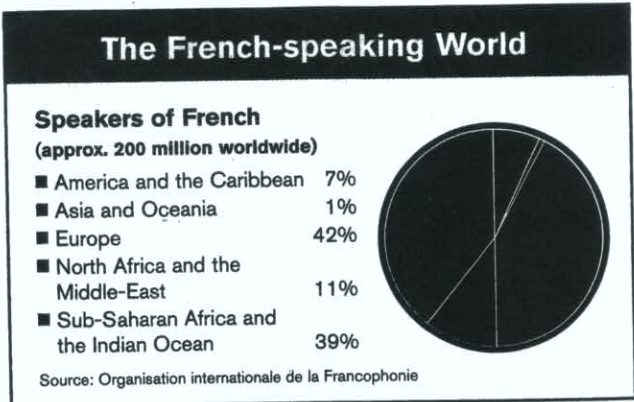


The French-speaking World

Do you know someone who speaks French? Chances are you do! French is the third most commonly spoken language in the U.S., after English and Spanish, and is the second most common language in some states. More than 1 million Americans speak French at home. It is the official language of more than twenty-five countries and an official language of the European Union and United Nations. Along with English, French is one of only two languages that is spoken on every continent of the world.

The Growth of French

Have you ever heard someone say that French is a Romance language? This doesn't mean it's romantic—although some say it is the language of love!—but that it is derived from Latin, the language of the Romans. Gaul, a country largely made up of what is now France and Belgium, was absorbed into the Roman Empire after the Romans invaded Gaul in 58 B.C. Most Gauls



began speaking Latin. In the third century, Germanic tribes including the Franks invaded the Roman territories of Western Europe. Their language also influenced the Gauls. As the Roman empire collapsed in the fifth century, people in outlying regions and frontiers were cut off from Rome. The Latin spoken by each group was modified more and more over time. Eventually, the language that was spoken in Paris became the standard for modern-day French.

French in the United States

1500

1534

Jacques Cartier claims territories for France as he explores the St. Lawrence river, and the French establish fur trading posts.

1600s

French exploration continues in the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley. La Salle takes the colony of Louisiana for France in 1682.



1600

1700



1685–1755

The Huguenots (French Protestants) form communities in America. French Acadians leave Nova Scotia and settle in northern New England and Louisiana.

French in the United States

French came to North America in the 16th and 17th centuries when French explorers and fur traders traveled through what is now America's heartland. French-speaking communities grew rapidly when the French Acadians were forced out of their Canadian settlement in 1755 and settled in New England and Louisiana. Then, in 1803, France sold the Louisiana territory to the United States for 80 million francs, or about 15 million dollars. Overnight, thousands of French people became citizens of the United States, bringing with them their rich history, language, and traditions.

This heritage, combined with that of the other French populations that have immigrated to the United States over the years, as well as U.S. relations with France in World Wars I and II, has led to the remarkable growth of French around the country. After English and Spanish, it is the third most commonly spoken language in the nation. Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont claim French as the second most commonly spoken language after English.

You've made a popular choice by choosing to take French in school; it is the second most commonly taught foreign language in classrooms throughout the country! Have you heard people speaking French in your community? Chances are that you've come across an advertisement, menu, or magazine that is in French. If you look around, you'll find that French can be found in some pretty common places. Depending on where you live, you may see French on grocery items such as juice cartons and cereal boxes. In some large cities, you can see French language television broadcasts on stations such as TV5Monde. When you listen to the radio or download music from the Internet, some of the most popular choices are French artists who perform in French. In fact, French music sales to the United States have more than doubled since 2004. French and English are the only two official languages of the Olympic Games. More than 20,000 words in the English language are of French origin. Learning French can create opportunities within your everyday life.

1800



1803
The United States purchases Louisiana, where Cajun French is widely spoken.

1900

1980s
Nearly all high schools, colleges, and universities in the United States offer courses in French as a foreign language. It is the second most commonly studied language.



2000

2009
French is the third most commonly spoken language in the U.S., with 1 million speakers.

Why Study French?

Connect with the World

Learning French can change how you view the world. While you learn French, you will also explore and learn about the origins, customs, art, music, and literature of people all around the world. When you travel to a French-speaking country, you'll be able to converse freely with the people you meet. And whether here in the U.S. or abroad, you'll find that speaking to people in their native language is the best way to bridge any culture gap.



Learn an International Language

There are many reasons for learning French, a language that has spread to many parts of the world and has along the way embraced words and sounds of languages as diverse as Latin, Arabic, German, and Celtic. The French language, standardized and preserved by the *Académie française* since 1634, is now among the most commonly spoken languages in the world. It is the second language of choice among people who study languages other than English in North America.

Understand the World Around You

Knowing French can also open doors to communities within the United States, and it can broaden your understanding of the nation's history and geography. The very names Delaware, Oregon, and Vermont are French in origin. Just knowing their meanings can give you some insight into, of all things, the history and landscapes for which the states are known. Oregon is derived from a word that means "hurricane," which tells you about the windiness of the Columbia River; and Vermont

City Name	Meaning in French
Bel Air, California	"good air"
Boise, Idaho	"wooded"
Des Moines, Iowa	"river of the monks"
Montclair, New Jersey	"clear mountain"



comes from a phrase meaning “green mountain,” which is why its official nickname is The Green Mountain State. You’ve already been speaking French whenever you talk about these states!

Explore Your Future

How many of you are already planning your future careers? Employers in today’s global economy look for workers who know different languages and understand other cultures. Your knowledge of French will make you a valuable candidate for careers abroad as well as in the United States. Doctors, nurses, social workers, hotel managers, journalists, businesspeople, pilots, flight attendants, and many other kinds of professionals need to know French or another foreign language to do their jobs well.



Expand Your Skills

Studying a foreign language can improve your ability to analyze and interpret information and help you succeed in many other subject areas. When you begin learning French, much of your studies will focus on reading, writing, grammar, listening, and speaking skills. You’ll be amazed at how the skills involved with learning how a language works can help you succeed in other areas of study. Many people who study a foreign language claim that they gained a better understanding of English and the structures it uses. French can even help you understand the origins of many English words and expand your own vocabulary in English. Knowing French can also help you pick up other related languages, such as Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian. French can really open doors for learning many other skills in your school career.



How to Learn French

Start with the Basics !

As with anything you want to learn, start with the basics and remember that learning takes time!

Vocabulary Every new word you learn in French will expand your vocabulary and ability to communicate. The more words you know, the better you can express yourself. Focus on sounds and think about ways to remember words. Use your knowledge of English and other languages to figure out the meaning of and memorize words like *téléphone*, *l'orchestre*, and *mystérieux*.

Grammar Grammar helps you put your new vocabulary together. By learning the rules of grammar, you can use new words correctly and speak in complete sentences. As you learn verbs and tenses, you will be able to speak about the past, present, or future; express yourself with

clarity; and be able to persuade others with your opinions. Pay attention to structures and use your knowledge of English grammar to make connections with French grammar.

Culture Culture provides you with a framework for what you may say or do. As you learn about the culture of French-speaking communities, you'll improve your knowledge of French. Think about a word like *cuisine* and how it relates to a type of food as well as the kitchen itself. Think about and explore customs observed at *le Réveillon de la Saint-Sylvestre* (New Year's Eve) or *le Carnaval* (or Mardi Gras, "fat Tuesday") and how they are similar to celebrations you are familiar with. Observe customs. Watch people greet each other or say good-bye. Listen for sayings that capture the spirit of what you want to communicate!



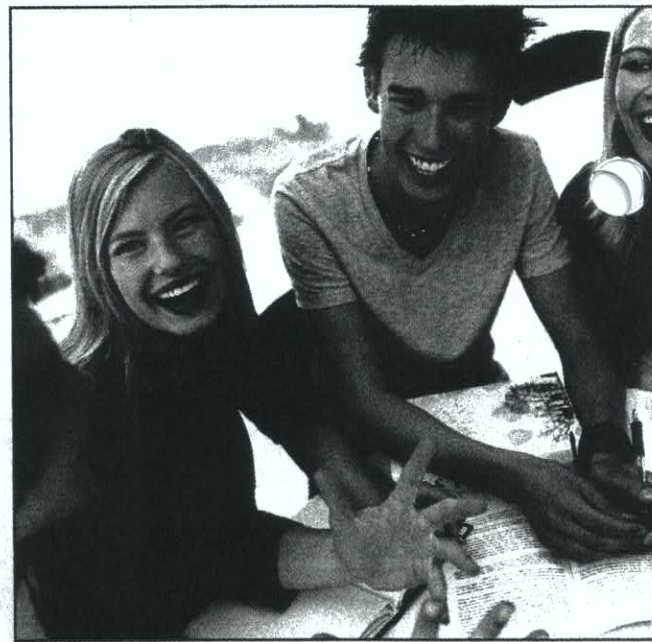
Listen, Speak, Read, and Write

Listening Listen for sounds and for words you can recognize. Listen for inflections and watch for key words that signal a question such as **comment** (how), **où** (where), or **qui** (who). Get used to the sound of French. Play French pop songs or watch French movies. Borrow books on CD from your local library, or try to attend a meeting with a French language group in your community. Download a podcast in French or watch a French newscast online. Don't worry if you don't understand every single word. If you focus on key words and phrases, you'll get the main idea. The more you listen, the more you'll understand!

Speaking Practice speaking French as often as you can. As you talk, work on your pronunciation, and read aloud texts so that words and sentences flow more easily. Don't worry if you don't sound like a native speaker, or if you make some mistakes. Time and practice will help you get there. Participate actively in French class. Try to speak French with classmates, especially native speakers (if you know any), as often as you can.



Reading Pick up a French-language newspaper or a magazine on your way to school, read the lyrics of a song as you listen to it, or read books you've already read in English translated into French. Use reading strategies that you know to understand the meaning of a text that looks unfamiliar. Look for cognates, or words that are related in English and French, to guess the meaning of some words. Read as often as you can, and remember to read for fun!



Writing It's easy to write in French if you put your mind to it. Memorize the basic rules of how letters and sounds are related, practice the use of diacritical marks, and soon you can probably become an expert speller in French! Write for fun—make up poems or songs, write e-mails or instant messages to friends, or start a journal or blog in French.

Tips for Learning French

- **Listen** to French radio shows, often available online. Write down words you can't recognize or don't know and look up the meaning.
- **Watch** French TV shows or movies. Read subtitles to help you grasp the content.
- **Read** French-language newspapers, magazines, Web sites, or blogs.
- **Listen** to French songs that you like—anything from a best-selling pop song by Superbus to an old French ballad by Édith Piaf. Sing along and concentrate on your pronunciation.



- **Seek** out French speakers. Look for neighborhoods, markets, or cultural centers where French might be spoken in your community. Greet people, ask for directions, or order from a menu at a French restaurant in French.
- **Pursue** language exchange opportunities in your school or community. Try to join language clubs or cultural societies, and explore opportunities for studying abroad or hosting a student from a French-speaking country in your home or school.

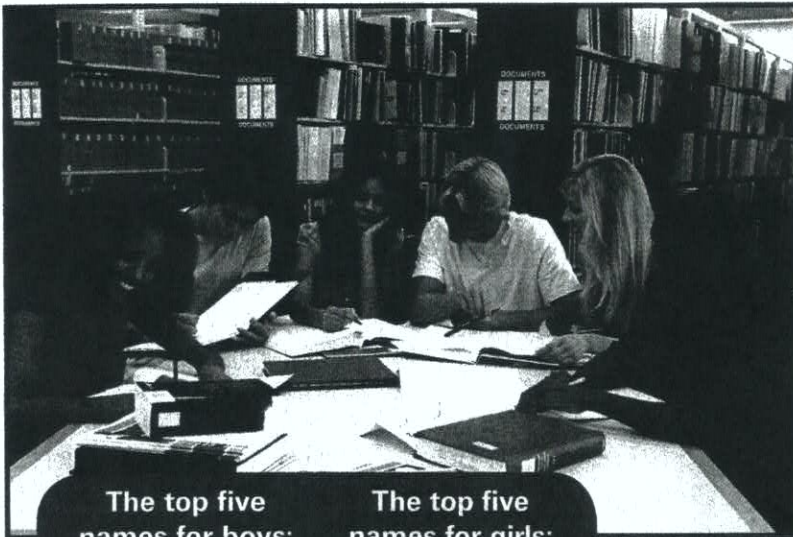
Practice, practice, practice!

Seize every opportunity you find to listen, speak, read, or write French. Think of it like a sport or learning a musical instrument—the more you practice, the more you will become comfortable with the language and how it works. You'll marvel at how quickly you can begin speaking French and how the world that it transports you to can change your life forever!

- **Connect** your learning to everyday experiences. Think about naming the ingredients of your favorite dish in French. Think about the origins of French place names in the U.S., like Baton Rouge and Fond du Lac, or of common English words and phrases like *café*, *en route*, *fiancé*, *matinée*, *papier mâché*, *petite*, and *souvenir*.
- **Use** mnemonics, or a memorizing device, to help you remember words. Make up a saying in English to remember the order of the days of the week in French (L, M, M, J, V, S, D).
- **Visualize** words. Try to associate words with images to help you remember meanings. For example, think of a *pâté* or *terrine* as you learn the names of different types of meats and vegetables. Imagine a national park and create mental pictures of the landscape as you learn names of animals, plants, and habitats.
- **Enjoy** yourself! Try to have as much fun as you can learning French. Take your knowledge beyond the classroom and find ways to make your learning experience your very own.

Common Names

Get started learning French by using a French name in class. You can choose from the lists on these pages, or you can find one yourself. How about learning the French equivalent of your name? The most popular French female names are Marie, Jeanne, Françoise, Monique, and Catherine. The most popular male names in French are Jean, Pierre, Michel, André, and Philippe. Is your name, or that of someone you know, in the French top five?



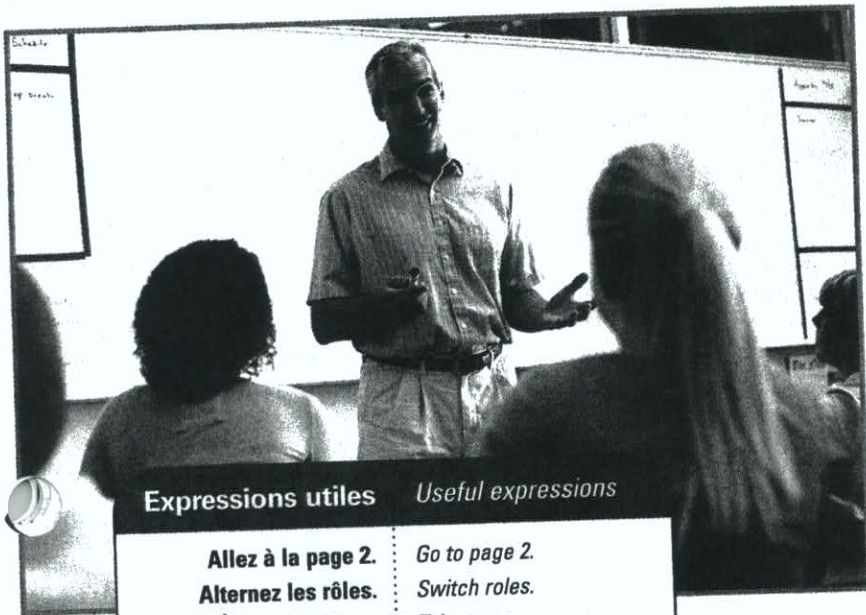
The top five names for boys:	The top five names for girls:
Jean	Marie
Michel	Jeanne
Pierre	Françoise
André	Monique
Philippe	Catherine

More Boys Names	More Girls Names
Thomas	Léa
Lucas	Manon
Théo	Chloé
Hugo	Emma
Maxime	Camille
Alexandre	Océane
Antoine	Marie
Enzo	Sarah
Quentin	Clara
Clément	Inès
Nicolas	Laura
Alexis	Julie
Romain	Mathilde
Louis	Lucie
Valentin	Anaïs
Léo	Pauline
Julien	Marin
Paul	Lisa
Baptiste	Eva
Tom	Justine
Nathan	Maéva
Arthur	Jade
Benjamin	Juliette
Florian	Charlotte
Mathis	Émilie



Useful French Expressions

The following expressions will be very useful in getting you started learning French. You can use them in class to check your understanding, and to ask and answer questions about the lessons. Learn these ahead of time to help you understand direction lines in French, as well as your teacher's instructions. Remember to practice your French as often as you can!



Expressions utiles Useful expressions

Allez à la page 2.	<i>Go to page 2.</i>
Alternez les rôles.	<i>Switch roles.</i>
À tour de rôle...	<i>Take turns...</i>
À voix haute	<i>Aloud</i>
À votre/ton avis	<i>In your opinion</i>
Après une deuxième écoute...	<i>After a second listening...</i>
Articulez.	<i>Enunciate.; Pronounce carefully.</i>
Au sujet de, À propos de	<i>Regarding/about</i>
Avec un(e) partenaire/ un(e) camarade de classe	<i>With a partner/a classmate</i>
Avez-vous/As-tu des questions?	<i>Do you have any questions?</i>
Avez-vous/As-tu fini/ terminé?	<i>Are you done?/Have you finished?</i>
Chassez l'intrus.	<i>Choose the item that doesn't belong.</i>
Choisissez le bon mot.	<i>Choose the right word.</i>
Circulez dans la classe.	<i>Walk around the classroom.</i>
Comment dit-on ____ en français?	<i>How do you say ____ in French?</i>
Comment écrit-on ____ en français?	<i>How do you spell ____ in French?</i>

Expressions utiles Useful expressions

Corrigez les phrases fausses.	<i>Correct the false statements.</i>
Créez/Formez des phrases...	<i>Create/Form sentences...</i>
D'après vous/Selon vous...	<i>According to you...</i>
Décrivez les images/dessins...	<i>Describe the images/drawings...</i>
Désolé(e), j'ai oublié.	<i>I'm sorry, I forgot.</i>
Déterminez si...	<i>Decide whether...</i>
Dites si vous êtes/Dis si tu es d'accord ou non.	<i>Say if you agree or not.</i>
Écrivez une lettre/une phrase.	<i>Write a letter/a sentence.</i>
Employez les verbes de la liste.	<i>Use the verbs from the list.</i>
En utilisant...	<i>Using...</i>
Est-ce que vous pouvez/ tu peux choisir un(e) autre partenaire/ quelqu'un d'autre?	<i>Can you please choose ... another partner/ someone else?</i>
Êtes vous prêt(e)? Es-tu prêt(e)?	<i>Are you ready?</i>
Excusez-moi, je suis en retard.	<i>Excuse me for being late.</i>
Faites correspondre...	<i>Match...</i>
Faites les accords nécessaires.	<i>Make the necessary agreements.</i>

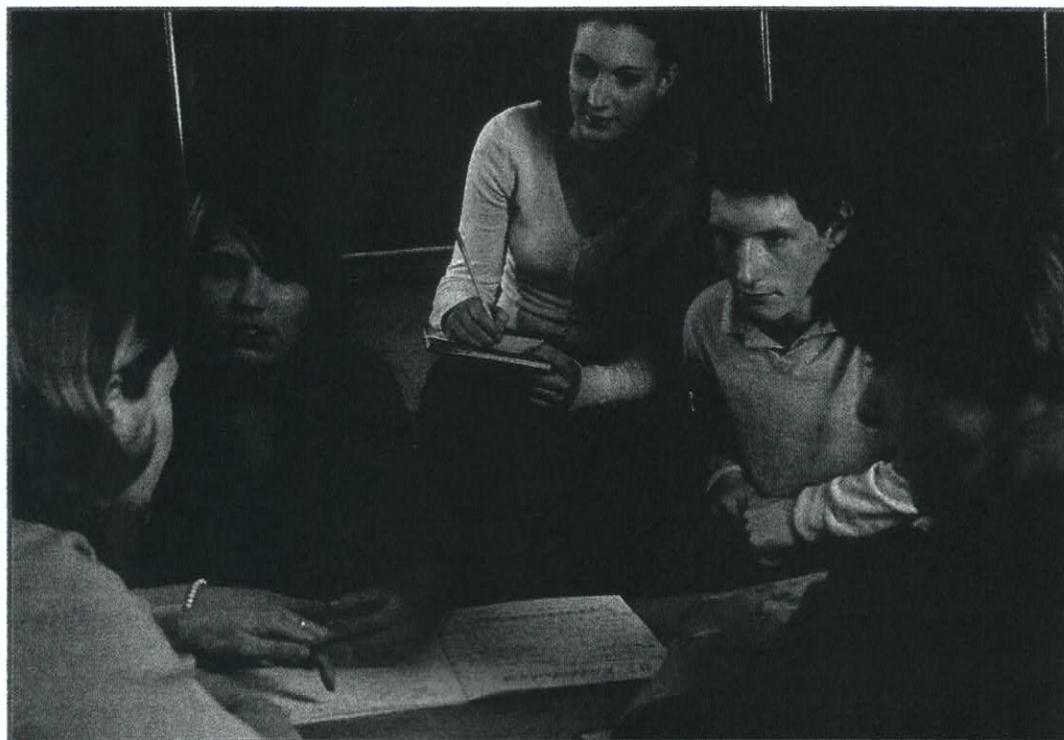


Expressions utiles*Useful expressions*

Félicitations!	<i>Congratulations!</i>
Indiquez le mot qui n'appartient pas.	<i>Indicate the word that doesn't belong.</i>
Indiquez qui a dit...	<i>Indicate who said...</i>
J'ai gagné!/Nous avons gagné!	<i>I won!/We won!</i>
Je n'ai pas/Nous n'avons pas encore fini.	<i>I/We have not finished yet.</i>
Je ne comprends pas.	<i>I don't understand.</i>
Je ne sais pas.	<i>I don't know.</i>
Je ne serai pas là demain.	<i>I won't be here tomorrow.</i>
Je peux continuer?	<i>May I continue?</i>
Jouez le rôle de.../la scène...	<i>Play the role of.../the scene...</i>
Lentement, s'il vous plaît.	<i>Slowly, please.</i>
Lisez...	<i>Read...</i>
Mettez dans l'ordre...	<i>Put in order...</i>
Ouvrez/Fermez votre livre.	<i>Open/Close your books.</i>
Par groupes de trois/quatre...	<i>In groups of three/four...</i>
Partagez vos résultats...	<i>Share your results...</i>
Posez-vous les questions suivantes.	<i>Ask each other the following questions.</i>
Pour demain, faites...	<i>For tomorrow, do...</i>

Expressions utiles*Useful expressions*

Pour demain, vous allez/ tu vas faire...	<i>For tomorrow you are going to do...</i>
Prononcez.	<i>Pronounce.</i>
Qu'est-ce que ____ veut dire?	<i>What does ____ mean?</i>
Que pensez-vous/penses-tu de...	<i>What do you think about...</i>
Qui a gagné?	<i>Who won?</i>
...qui convient le mieux.	<i>...that best completes/is the most appropriate.</i>
Rejoignez un autre groupe.	<i>Get together with another group.</i>
Remplissez les espaces.	<i>Fill in the blanks.</i>
Répondez aux questions suivantes.	<i>Answer the following questions.</i>
Soyez prêt(e)s à...	<i>Be ready to...</i>
Venez/Viens au tableau.	<i>Come to the board.</i>
Vous comprenez/? Tu comprends?	<i>Do you understand?</i>
Vous pouvez expliquer encore une fois, s'il vous plaît?	<i>Could you explain again, please?</i>
Vous pouvez répéter, s'il vous plaît?	<i>Could you repeat that, please?</i>
Vrai ou faux?	<i>True or false?</i>



THEMATIC VOCABULARY

Bonjour et au revoir

Bonjour. *Good morning.; Hello.*

Bonsoir. *Good evening.; Hello.*

Salut! *Hi!; Bye!*

À bientôt. *See you soon.*

À demain. *See you tomorrow.*

À plus tard. *See you later.*

Au revoir. *Good-bye.*

Bonne journée! *Have a good day!*

Ça va? *What's up?; How are things?*

Comment allez-vous? (form.)

How are you?

Comment vas-tu? (fam.)

How are you?

Comme ci, comme ça. *So-so.*

Je vais bien/mal. *I am doing well/badly.*

De rien. *You're welcome.*

Excusez-moi. (form.) *Excuse me.*

Excuse-moi. (fam.) *Excuse me.*

Merci beaucoup. *Thank you very much.*

Les présentations

Comment vous appelez-vous? (form.) *What is your name?*

Comment t'appelles-tu? (fam.) *What is your name?*

Je m'appelle... *My name is...*

Je vous/te présente... (form./fam.) *I would like to introduce (name) to you.*

L'école

assister à *to attend*

écouter *to listen (to)*

enseigner *to teach*

étudier *to study*

passer un examen *to take an exam*

l'art (m.) *art*

la biologie *biology*

le droit *law*

la gestion *business administration*

l'histoire (f.) *history*

l'informatique (f.) *computer science*

les langues (étrangères) (f.) *(foreign) languages*

les mathématiques (maths)(f.) *mathematics*

une bourse *scholarship, grant*

un cours *class, course*

un devoir *homework*

l'école (f.) *school*

une note *grade*

un(e) ami(e) *friend*

un(e) camarade de chambre *roommate*

un(e) camarade de classe *classmate*

un(e) étudiant(e) *student*

une fille *girl*

un garçon *boy*

un professeur *teacher, professor*

un bureau *desk; office*

une chaise *chair*

un ordinateur *computer*

une table *table*

un tableau *blackboard; painting*

un cahier *notebook*

une chose *thing*

un crayon *pencil*

une feuille (de papier) *sheet of paper*

un sac à dos *backpack*

un stylo *pen*

La famille

un beau-frère *brother-in-law*

un beau-père *father-in-law; stepfather*

une belle-mère *mother-in-law; stepmother*

une belle-soeur *sister-in-law*

un(e) cousin(e) *cousin*

un demi-frère *half-brother; stepbrother*

une demi-soeur *half-sister; stepsister*

les enfants (m., f.) *children*

un époux/une épouse *spouse*

une femme *wife; woman*

une fille *daughter; girl*

un fils *son*

un frère *brother*

une grand-mère *grandmother*

un grand-père *grandfather*

les grands-parents (m.) *grandparents*

un mari *husband*

une mère *mother*

un neveu *nephew*

une nièce *niece*

un oncle *uncle*

les parents (m.) *parents*

un père *father*

une petite-fille *granddaughter*

un petit-fils *grandson*

les petits-enfants (m.) *grandchildren*

une sœur *sister*

une tante *aunt*

Les personnes

antipathique *unpleasant*

beau/belle *beautiful; handsome*

bon(ne) *kind; good*

blond(e) *blond*

brun(e) (hair) *dark*

châtain (hair) *brown*

drôle *funny*

fort(e) *strong*

gentil(le) *nice*

grand(e) *big; tall*

gros(se) *fat*

jeune *young*

joli(e) *pretty*

laid(e) *ugly*

mauvais(e) *bad*

méchant(e) *mean*

modeste *modest, humble*

petit(e) *small, short (stature)*

roux/rousse *red-haired*

vieux/vieille *old*

Professions et occupations

un(e) architecte *architect*

un(e) artiste *artist*

un(e) athlète *athlete*

un(e) avocat(e) *lawyer*

un coiffeur/une coiffeuse *hairdresser*

un(e) dentiste *dentist*

un homme/une femme d'affaires *businessman/woman*

un ingénieur *engineer*

un(e) journaliste *journalist*

un médecin *doctor*

un(e) musicien(ne) *musician*

Dans la ville

un centre commercial *shopping center, mall*
un cinéma (ciné) *movie theater*
une église *church*
une épicerie *grocery store*
un grand magasin *department store*
un magasin *store*
un marché *market*
un musée *museum*
un parc *park*
une piscine *pool*
une place *square; place*
un restaurant *restaurant*
une banlieue *suburbs*
un centre-ville *city/town center, downtown*

À table

avoir faim *to be hungry*
avoir soif *to be thirsty*
manger quelque chose *to eat something*

une baguette *baguette (long, thin loaf of bread)*
le beurre *butter*
un croissant *croissant (flaky, crescent-shaped roll)*
un éclair *éclair (pastry filled with cream)*
des frites (f.) *French fries*
un fromage *cheese*
le jambon *ham*
un pain (de campagne) *(country-style) bread*
un sandwich *sandwich*
une soupe *soup*
une boisson (gazeuse) *(soft) (carbonated) drink/beverage*
un café *coffee*
une eau (minérale) *(mineral) water*
un jus (d'orange, de pomme, etc.) *(orange, apple, etc.) juice*
le lait *milk*
un thé (glacé) *(iced) tea*

Activités sportives et loisirs

acheter *to buy*
aller à la pêche *to go fishing*
chanter *to sing*
courir *to run*
danser *to dance*
dormir *to sleep*
jouer (à/de) *to play*
marcher *to walk (person); to work (thing)*
nager *to swim*
passer chez quelqu'un *to stop by someone's house*
patiner *to skate*
pratiquer *to play regularly; to practice*
skier *to ski*

le baseball *baseball*
le basket(-ball) *basketball*
les cartes (f.) *cards*
le cinéma *movies*
les échecs (m.) *chess*
le foot(ball) *soccer*
le football américain *football*
le golf *golf*
un jeu *game*
un joueur/une joueuse *player*
un match *game*
un passe-temps *pastime, hobby*
le sport *sport*
un stade *stadium*
le temps libre *free time*
le tennis *tennis*
le volley(-ball) *volleyball*

Les vêtements

aller avec *to go with*
porter *to wear*
vendre *to sell*

un blouson *jacket*
une ceinture *belt*
un chapeau *hat*
une chaussette *sock*
une chaussure *shoe*

une chemise (à manches courtes/longues) *shirt (sh long-sleeved)*

un chemisier *blouse*
un costume *(man's) suit*
une cravate *tie*
un gant *glove*
un jean *jeans*
une jupe *skirt*
un maillot de bain *swimsuit, bathing suit*
un manteau *coat*
un pantalon *pants*
un pull *sweater*
une robe *dress*
un short *shorts*
un sous-vêtement *underwear*
un tee-shirt *T-shirt*

des soldes (m.) *sales*
un vendeur/une vendeuse *salesman/saleswoman*

bon marché *inexpensive*
cher/chère *expensive*
large *loose; big*
serré(e) *tight*

Les fêtes

faire la fête *to party*
faire une surprise (à quelqu'un) *to surprise (someone)*
fêter *to celebrate*
organiser une fête *to organize a party*

une bière *beer*
un biscuit *cookie*
le champagne *champagne*
un dessert *dessert*
un gâteau *cake*
la glace *ice cream*
le vin *wine*

un cadeau *gift*
une fête *party; celebration*
un hôte/une hôtesse *host(ess)*
un(e) invité(e) *guest*
un jour férié *holiday*