

# LIVE LIKE... ... A FRENCH PERSON

75

French-English  
Scenarios  
& Lists  
of Expressions  
on Daily Life  
in France

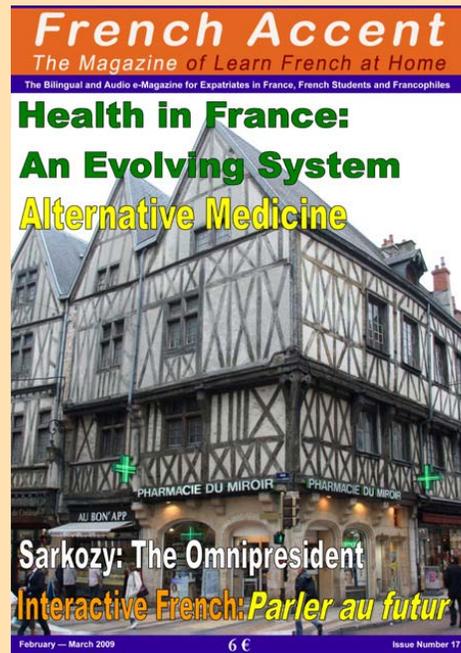
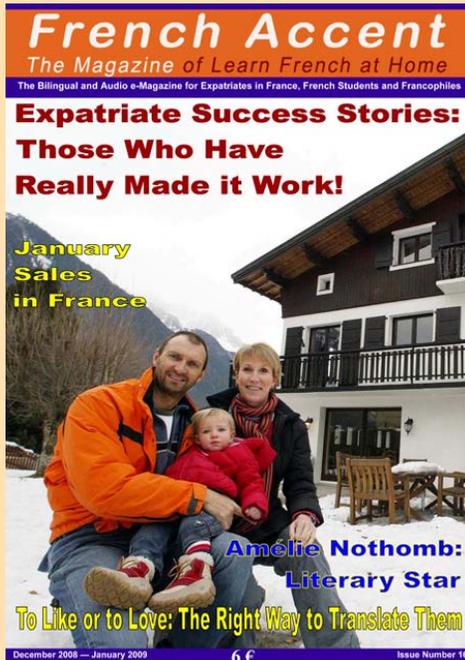
With  
Audio  
Links

A Publication of  
*French Accent Magazine*



TRAVELANGUES  
Travel & Learn

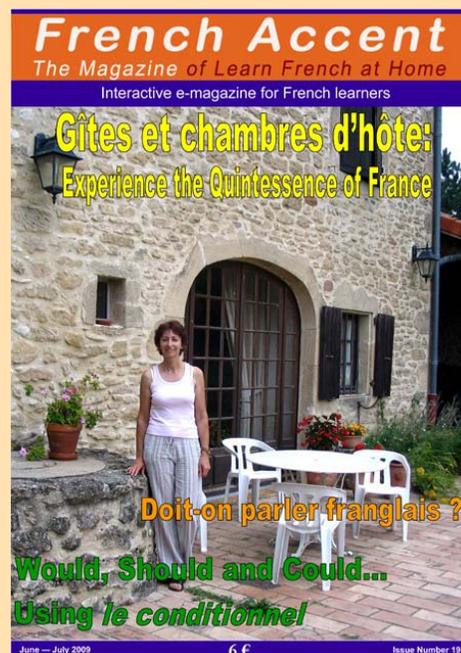
A collection of e-books on travel and language



## French Accent Magazine

A **totally Unique** Online Magazine  
With **Audio Links**

[www.frenchaccentmagazine.com](http://www.frenchaccentmagazine.com)



# LIVE LIKE...

# A FRENCH PERSON

75 French–English Scenarios  
& Lists of Expressions  
on Daily Life in France  
with Audio Links

From  
*French Accent Magazine*

**January 2010**

Authors:  
Céline and Vincent Anthonioz  
Annick and Roger Stevenson

A COLLECTION  
OF BOOKS  
ON TRAVEL  
AND LANGUAGE



TRAVELANGUES  
Travel & Learn

## Why this e-book?

One of the most difficult and challenging aspects involved in learning another language is gaining a real understanding of the day-to-day language. Many books accompanied with CDs offer listening comprehension exercises, but the scenarios or conversations are not always on situations that you would actually find yourself in on a daily basis when living in France.

In each issue of *French Accent* ([www.frenchaccentmagazine.com](http://www.frenchaccentmagazine.com)), we have written scenarios to integrate up-to date and useful vocabulary based on real life situations. In order to train your ear to the sound of French, **we have added audio links to each scenario** so that you can listen to it repeatedly.

To give you substantial listening practice, we have compiled in this book every single scenario we have written since December 2006. You will learn the language used in different contexts such as having to speak with an Internet technician, or at the hairdresser, or with a potential employer while going through a job interview, or with a doctor, etc... Whether you are a beginner or an intermediate level learner, this book should greatly help you improve your overall comprehension.

## How to start?

You can either read the e-book on your computer or print any pages you wish. To access the French audio files, you need to be connected online; then click on this icon:



**Note:** the Audio files are located on the corresponding web pages of the various *French Accent Magazine* issues, together with other audio texts.



They can also be downloaded in an MP3 format for Ipods or other MP3 players.

**To download the audio files: click [HERE](#)**

## How to use it?

If you are learning French on your own, we would suggest that you pick a scenario of interest to you and follow the following 5 steps process:

- 1) Listen to the scenario without reading it in order to try to understand as much as you can.
- 2) Then, listen to it while reading the scenario. Pay attention to the sound of every word and try to figure out the meaning of the conversation.
- 3) Listen to it one more time without reading it in order to try to recognize some words that you could not identify the first time you read it.
- 4) Then compare it to the English version.
- 5) Once you have understood the meaning of every sentence, listen to it again in order to focus once more on the sounds of the syllables and to pay attention to the liaisons in between words.

For the vocabulary sections, we would suggest that you repeat every single word out loud.

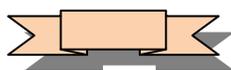
## SUMMARY

Social Etiquette	Page 7
French Gastronomy	Page 15
Cooking	Page 19
Organizing a Birthday Party	Page 21
Living Organic in France	Page 25
Working In France	Page 27
Starting a Business	Page 30
Retirement	Page 33
Raising Children	Page 34
At the Doctor's	Page 36
Leisure:	
- Youth and Culture Centres	Page 43
- Sports	Page 45
Holidays: The <i>Gîtes de France</i>	Page 47
At the Hairdresser's	Page 50
A Problem With Your Dog?	Page 52

(Cont'd page 6)

## SUMMARY (cont'd)

Speaking With an Internet Technician	Page 55
At the Garden Centre	Page 57
Sales in France	Page 60
Looking for Antiques	Page 64
Don't Forget the <i>Ramoneur!</i>	Page 67
Getting Others to Respect your Rights!	Page 68
And What About Life in Switzerland?	Page 70



# Social Etiquette

How to behave in public in any circumstance? This is not always an easy question for expatriates. French social etiquette has its set of non-written but quite strict rules of behaviour. At the same time, there is a refreshing tendency among young people to deal with social relations in a more relaxed and less formal way, putting aside some of the more rigid and constraining attitudes of the older generations. Most French people, if you manage to establish a good relationship with them, will be indulgent about the little mistakes of etiquette that you may make. But we know from experience how embarrassing it can be to realize that one has done or said something which may seem impolite to others. You will certainly feel more comfortable if you do things the way they are habitually done. And this is also a very good way to adapt to another culture.

## THE BASIC VOCABULARY

**Avoir la bonne attitude** = to have the right attitude.

**La bienséance** = an outdated expression that dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century which refers to a set of prescribed rules of proper behaviour.

**Les bonnes manières** = idem; a little outdated too.

**Etre bien/mal élevé(e)** = to behave well/badly. It literally means to have been brought up well or badly. *Cet enfant est mal élevé !*

**L'étiquette** = etiquette. Proper etiquette in French is used mainly in reference to official events and not so much for private life, in which case one refers more to *la politesse*, or *le savoir-vivre*.

**La galanterie** = Gallantry is supposed to be typically French, but sometimes the younger generations have a tendency to forget it, and it is rarely exhibited by French drivers.

**Une incivilité** = an act of rudeness or vile behaviour. The expression is not very commonly used, but can be applied to relations with authorities: *une incivilité envers un employé de mairie...*

**La politesse/être poli(e)/impoli(e)** = politeness/to be polite/impolite.

**Etre présentable** = to be presentable

**Savoir se comporter/se tenir en public** = to know how to behave in public.

**Avoir du savoir-vivre** = to know how to behave in any circumstance.

**Etre vulgaire** = to be rude or vulgar.



## A Few Commonly Used Expressions

### **A vos souhaits !**

The expression you say to a person next to you who sneezes, even if you don't know him/her. **A tes souhaits !** would be used for someone you say "tu" to

### **A votre santé ! / A ta santé !**

### **A la vôtre ! / A la tienne !**

### **Tchin-tchin !...**

A few equivalents of "Cheers" when you start an aperitif or sometimes for the first drink at lunch or diner.

### **Bon appétit !**

When you begin the first course at lunch or diner.

### **Bon anniversaire !**

### **Joyeux anniversaire !**

Two ways to wish someone a happy birthday.

### **Bon/joyeux anniversaire de mariage !**

Happy Wedding Anniversary!

### **Bonne chance !**

Yes, it means "Good luck!" But for some superstitious persons using the word "*chance*" is supposed to bring bad luck.

The most accepted way to say good luck in such cases, if you really mean it and want to wish someone good luck, is to say: "**Merde!**" or: "**Merde puissance 13!**"...

It will make the person very happy. Be careful, if he/she replies: "**Merci !**", then it is bad luck again... Therefore, better not say anything.

### **Bon courage !**

Another expression that can be used instead of "bonne chance", especially if someone has a rather difficult chore to accomplish.

### **Salut !**

Another less formal way, used quite often by young people, to say "au revoir" but which is more and more used to say "bonjour" too... We know this can be confusing. Therefore, it would be better to listen first to what people around you say before starting to say it too. The difference in the meaning is conveyed by the tone you use in each case. Listen carefully to the audio link so that you can understand the difference.

In some regions of France, such as the Savoies, or in Switzerland, "salut" is a very usual term, even more so than "bonjour" sometimes, and is used mainly as a greeting. The accent in these regions is special too, as you can hear from the audio.

### **Ciao !**

An Italian word which is used quite frequently in French now. It usually means "au revoir", but sometimes "bonjour"... Again, just listen to the sound to hear the difference.

### **Bonne route !**

### **Bon retour !**

Something to add after saying "goodbye" to guests who are leaving in order to wish them a safe trip home again.

And if you hear : "**Un petit dernier pour la route?**", it means that the person is just suggesting to have a last drink before leaving, which you are quite justified to refuse if you are going to drive ("**prendre la route**").

### **Bon voyage !**

### **Bonnes vacances !**

The obvious "Have a good trip!" "Have a good holiday!"



## Scenario: Flirt In France



**Vous êtes à la terrasse d'un café (restaurant) et vous avez commandé le poisson du jour avec un verre de vin blanc. Soudainement, un homme qui est assis à la table à côté vous dit :**

**You are sitting at a table outside in a *café/restaurant* and you have ordered the fish of the day with a glass of white wine. Suddenly, a man who is sitting at the table next to you says:**

**L'homme :** Vous avez choisi un très bon vin blanc, il ira parfaitement bien avec votre poisson !

**The man:** you've chosen a very good white wine; it will go perfectly with your fish!

**La femme :** Ah bon, je ne savais pas, je l'ai choisi par hasard.

**The woman:** Oh really, I didn't know, I chose it out of the blue.

**L'homme :** Le Pouilly Fuissé, il est excellent avec ce type de poisson! Croyez-moi ! Regardez, je suis en train de le boire !

**The man:** Le Pouilly Fuissé, it will be excellent with this type of fish! Believe me! Look, I'm drinking it.

**La femme :** Vous êtes connaisseur en vin ?

**The woman:** You are a connoisseur of wine?

**L'homme :** Oh vous savez, je ne suis pas connaisseur mais je connais bien la carte de ce restaurant. Vous avez un charmant petit accent ! Vous êtes peut-être anglaise ou américaine ?

**The man:** Oh you know, I am not a connoisseur but I know the menu of this restaurant very well. You have a charming little accent! Perhaps, you're English or American?

**La femme :** Oui, je suis anglaise.

**The woman:** Yes, I am English.

**L'homme :** Je connais un peu l'anglais mais je le parle très mal. Vous parlez très bien le français !

**The man:** I know English a bit but I speak it very badly. You speak very good French!

**La femme :** Je suis ici depuis 2 ans mais mon français n'est pas très bon (elle sourit).

**The woman:** I've been here for 2 years but my French isn't very good (she smiles).

**L'homme :** Et aussi vous avez un très beau sourire !

**The man:** And you have a beautiful smile!

**La femme :** Merci.

**The woman:** Thank you.

**L'homme :** Puisque nous mangeons tous les deux la même chose et que nous buvons le même vin, ça vous dérangerait si on partageait la même table ?

**The man:** Since we're both eating the same thing and we're drinking the same wine, would you mind if we shared the same table?

**La femme :** Ecoutez, euh je....

**The woman:** Well, listen, I..

**L'homme :** Je ne veux pas m'imposer mais ça serait sympa de bavarder un peu (grand sourire).

**The man:** I don't want to impose but it would be nice to chat a bit (a big smile).

**La femme :** D'accord. Pourquoi pas !

**The woman:** OK. Why not!



**IF YOU WISH TO  
ORDER THIS  
75 FRENCH-ENGLISH  
AUDIO SCENARIOS  
EBOOK FOR ONLY**

**18€ / £15 / US\$22**

**CLICK HERE**

**OR COPY THIS WEB ADDRESS**

[www.frenchaccentmagazine.com/say-it-book/e-books.htm#live](http://www.frenchaccentmagazine.com/say-it-book/e-books.htm#live)

