

Learn French at Home

Student e-book

“With a French Accent”

Grammar

French Basics

Easy grammatical explanations
and practical, everyday language

With more than 170 exercises

www.learnfrenchathome.com



The French Basics Grammar Book of Learn French at Home

*“The most important thing is to learn French, and to keep studying it after you get here”
(Channel 4, Relocation).*

We are a team of teachers who have been teaching French to students located all over the world who do not always have access to a French grammar book which motivated us in creating a French grammar e-book with exercises so that we could send, in just one click, to our students.

Our second motive was the desire to write a grammar book which contains easy grammar explanations. One difficulty in learning French is the complexity of the grammar and the fear of learning it. We wrote our explanations in English in order to facilitate the comprehension. We have not published an answer book since this book will mostly used along with a French teacher. Also, many of the questions in the exercises sections are for the students to reply freely, as well as many of the translations to do from English to French have more than one version possibility.

This French basics Grammar book is written for the beginner learners; they will be able to learn and exercise their understanding with the crucial basics of the language. Step by step along with a teacher or on his/her own, the student can construct the sentences and gain plenty of practice.

Learn French at Home's students e-book

Created by Céline Anthonioz, Director, “Learn French at Home”, and Annick Stevenson.
With the assistance of Roger Stevenson and all the teachers of “Learn French at Home”

Contact: www.learnfrenchathome.com

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Learn French at Home

“With a French Accent”

Grammar

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Easy grammatical explanations
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February 2011

Are you looking for some French lessons?

The French native teachers at “Learn French at Home” provide personalised lessons via Skype

“Learn French at Home” was created in August 2004 by a French native teacher and by a French professional in the communication field who both understand the challenges of learning another language and the difficulties of settling in a different culture. After many years of experience in teaching French in different countries, the creators of “Learn French at Home” designed a personalised French learning programme to assist any individual via Skype who wishes to learn French from their home.

Statistics show that knowing the language is an important factor for a successful settling in a foreign country but time constraint or inefficient programmes will discourage people from learning. This is the main reason why “Learn French” at Home was created: To give the possibility for people to learn the French language starting at their current level, from anywhere at almost anytime, at their speed, towards a defined objective. Whether it is for social or professional reasons, “Learn French at Home” has assisted hundreds of expatriates living in France and in Switzerland to gain a comfortable French level in order to experience and fully enjoy the everyday life activities in the country. Every French learning course is customised to the learner's objectives. Personalisation and continuous feed-back contributes greatly to a successful language training session and the programmes at “Learn French at Home” are based on these 2 factors.

The students at “Learn French at Home” are experiencing real and satisfying results through an enjoyable and professional learning experience. With a friendly teacher and a unique personalised online programme, the students will gain the skills needed in order to speak French with spontaneity and understand it with confidence.

**For more information on the different programmes we offer, have a look at the website:
www.learnfrenchathome.com**

French Accent Magazine

**A unique 30+ pages e-magazine with audio designed
to help you improve your French !**

Many of the grammar explanations included in this e-book were written by the main teacher at *Learn French at Home* for the *French Accent Magazine* issues.

The unique concept of *French Accent* is that the majority of the articles are both in French and in English with numerous audio files for listening to everyday life scenarios, vocabulary, songs and other features. The French audio files can be downloaded into an mp3 format for iPods or other MP3 players.

The Magazine is published every 2 months and can be read online or on paper with the printable version option .

**To find out more about the French Accent Magazine, have a look at the website:
www.frenchaccentmagazine.com**

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Bonjour !

Bonjour, bonsoir...

When you walk into a boutique or a small shop in France, the people in the place will acknowledge you by saying **bonjour** (all day) or **bonsoir** (after 5:00 p.m.). Of course, in return you should do the same. If you walk into a place filled with women only, you could say *Bonjour Mesdames*, in a place filled with men and women *Bonjour Mesdames et Messieurs* (or simply *Messieurs-dames*). If you're facing one person only, it is customary to say *Bonjour Monsieur* or *Bonjour Madame*, if you're greeting a younger female person (18 years or less), you should say *Bonjour Mademoiselle*.

Au revoir, bonne journée, bonne soirée, bonne nuit...

When you leave a shop or a restaurant during the day, you should always automatically say **au revoir** (good bye) or **bonne journée** (have a good day!). In the evening, you must say **bonne soirée** (good evening). And when you leave someone at night, you say **bonne nuit** (good night).

A bientôt, à plus tard !...

Here is a list of common expressions you say when you leave people, and when to use them:

A bientôt ! = See you soon! Used when you are going to see that person again one day but you're not sure when! The equivalent of "see you later."

A samedi, à mercredi, à ce soir, à demain, à la semaine prochaine, à demain soir, à midi, etc. = See you Saturday, Wednesday, tonight, tomorrow, next week, tomorrow evening, at lunch time, etc. When you are indicating the specific day and time when you will meet again, just start the phrase with **à** + any specific day or time.

A tout à l'heure ! = See you later today! It is said when you are going to see that person again in just a few hours within that same day. The younger kids and adults may just say **à tout'** and will pronounce the *t* at the end of the word.

A plus tard ! = See you later ! It is used when you are unsure if you're going to see that person again or not but most likely will. The younger kids and adults may just say **à plus** and will pronounce the *s* at the end of the word. In text messages (sms), they simply write: **A+**.

A une prochaine ! = See you next time! Same as above.

A un de ces quatre ! = See you one of these days!. You use it when you are not sure when you will see someone again.

Les bises (kisses on the cheek)

Each time you run into someone you know or even if you're meeting that person for the first time and if you're a woman, you should be prepared to give from 2 to 4 *bises* (depending on your location in France) to the other person (male or female) on their cheeks. The French person in question will more than likely initiate the action. If you're a man, you should also be ready to *faire la bise* to a woman but normally you would shake hands (*serrer la main*) with another man.

.....EXERCISE.....

What do you say:

1. When you enter a *boulangerie* in the morning?
 2. When you enter a *fromagerie* in which the *fromagère* (a woman) is alone?
 3. When you enter a bank in which you are welcomed by the *banquier* (a man)?
 4. When you leave a friend that you will meet again in the afternoon?
 5. When you enter a café in the evening?
 6. When you leave a shop during the day?
 7. When you leave a teacher that you will meet again the following Wednesday?
 8. When you leave a restaurant at the end of the afternoon?
 9. When you leave your friends at night before going home to bed?
 10. When you leave a colleague that you will see very soon?
-

Spelling and the Alphabet

It is important to first learn the alphabet to the point where you can easily spell any word.

.....EXERCISES.....

1) Say the alphabet to the teacher:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

2) Spell the following words:

Maison
Architecte
Rasoir
Queue
Grange
Rêve
Bouteille
Bâtir
Vendre
Courir

3) Difficult syllables with the vowels – learn to pronounce the following to your teacher:

eu: jeune; bleu	ui: oui, puits
au: automne; faux	ou: roux; loup
an: maman; charmant	on: ronde; longue
en: vent; lentille	eau: chapeau, tableau
ain: pain; vain	oi: poisson; croire
in: vin; malin	

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