

Workbook



# French

Intermediate



**180**  
exercises  
+  
model  
answers

Workbook



# French

Intermediate



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# About this workbook

With 180 exercises divided into 15 chapters, this book will give you the opportunity to carry out a systematic and progressive revision of the French grammar basics, from pronunciation and punctuation balancing tenses.

This easy-to-use workbook has been designed specifically for intermediate learners in French. It includes 180 fun-filled exercises (with answers) which follow a logical progression. Every aspect of the language has been covered, including pronunciation, accentuation, spelling, vocabulary, syntax and grammar.

Finally, this book will allow you to carry out a self-assessment; you will be able to fill in your icon's expression after each exercise (😊 for mostly correct, 😊 for approximately half correct or 😞 for less than half). You will then be able to carry forward the number of icons for all of these exercises at the end of each chapter and add them all up using the table provided for that purpose at the end of the book.

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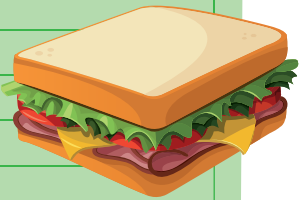
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# Pronunciation & punctuation

## Transcription used in this workbook

French sound	English equivalent
<u>sa</u> , <u>là</u> , <u>femme</u>	[a] An [a] in between pat and father
<u>âne</u> , <u>bas</u>	[a:] Same as above but slightly longer
<u>thé</u> , <u>ses</u>	[ay] as in say
<u>baguette</u> , <u>chaise</u> , <u>ouvert</u>	[eh] as in best
<u>île</u> , <u>si</u>	[ee] as in beet
<u>homme</u>	[o] as in sore
<u>drôle</u> , <u>bateau</u>	[oh] as in load
<u>où</u> , <u>pour</u>	[oo] as in food
<u>me</u> , <u>peu</u>	[uh] as in about (rounded [eh] sound)
<u>jeune</u> , <u>sœur</u>	[uh:] as in leisure (rounded [ay] sound)
<u>tu</u>	[ew] Tightly purse the lips while pronouncing the sound [ee]
<u>ouest</u> , <u>oui</u>	[w] as in wet, wallaby, week
<u>yeux</u> , <u>billet</u>	[y] as in yes
<u>travail</u>	[a]-[ee] as in fight
<u>abeille</u>	[eh]-[ee] as in layer
<u>policier</u>	[ee]-[ay] as in beer + say = yay
<u>bière</u>	[ee]-[eh] as in beer + fair = yeh
<u>vieux</u>	[ee]-[uh] = yuh as in stadium
<u>grenouille</u>	[oo]-[ee] as in food + beer
<u>feuille</u>	[uh]-[ee] as in butter + beer
<u>nuit</u>	[ew]-[ee] as in few + week, but said quickly so it sounds a bit like [wee]
<u>balle</u>	[b] as in ball
<u>carte</u> , <u>kaki</u> , <u>quart</u>	[k] as in cat
<u>chou</u> , <u>shampooing</u>	[sh] as in bush



French sound	English equivalent
<u>d</u> anse	[d] as in <b>dot</b>
fr <u>è</u> re, <u>ph</u> oto	[f] as in <b>f</b> ather
gar <u>g</u> e	[g] as in <b>g</b> arage
<u>j</u> our	[ʒ] as in <b>vi</b> sion
<u>h</u> omme	The <b>h</b> is silent
<u>l</u> ampe	[l] as in <b>l</b> amp
m <u>è</u> re	[m] as in <b>m</b> other
<u>n</u> ez	[n] as in <b>n</b> ear
l <u>ign</u> e	[ny] as in <b>cany</b> on
p <u>è</u> re	[p] as in <b>p</b> ot
<u>r</u> ouge	[r] Guttural <i>r</i> as in the Scottish <b>loch</b>
s <u>ou</u> s, <u>plac</u> e, <u>ça</u> , <u>opti</u> on, <u>dix</u>	[s] as in <b>s</b> it
<u>t</u> ortue	[t] as in <b>t</b> urtle
<u>v</u> ert	[v] as in <b>v</b> erb
<u>taxi</u>	[ks] as in <b>taxi</b>
<u>z</u> éro, <u>dix</u> -huit, <u>vase</u>	[z] as in <b>z</b> oo
Vowels or diphthongs* followed by 'n' or 'm': <u>blanc</u> , <u>champ</u> , <u>embrasse</u> / <u>son</u> / <u>vin</u> / <u>loin</u>	Also known as nasal vowels and diphthongs. Pronounce the vowel as if it was followed by the sound 'ng': [ah <sup>n</sup> ], [oh <sup>n</sup> ], [a <sup>n</sup> ], [wa <sup>n</sup> ] etc.

\* a **diphthong** is a sound formed by the combination of two vowels in a single syllable, in which the sound begins as one vowel and moves towards another.

**1** Use the phonetic transcription above to write the French words and expressions and write their English translation.

- a. [oh ruhvwar] → .....
- b. [salew] → .....
- c. [bya<sup>n</sup>vuhnew] → .....
- d. [a bya<sup>n</sup>toh] → .....
- e. [muhsee-uh] → .....
- f. [jzuh mapehl] → .....
- g. [bon new-ee] → .....

Cultural stop

**La bise** (*cheek air kissing*) is a very common way to greet someone in France. You can use the **bise** to say hello to people you know well or feel comfortable with. It is actually not a real kiss but rather a light graze on the cheek accompanied by a kissing sound. The number of kisses and the starting side depend on the region you are in.

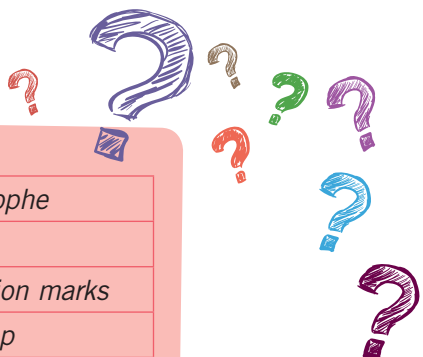


**2** Write the phonetic transcription of the following French words using the table above and write their English translation.

- a. Madame → .....
- b. Ça va → .....
- c. Coucou → .....
- d. Bonsoir → .....
- e. À demain → .....
- f. Allô → .....
- g. Bonne journée → .....

Punctuation (*La ponctuation*)

<b>L'apostrophe</b> [lapostrof]	<i>The apostrophe</i>
<b>Les deux-points</b> [lay duh: pwa <sup>n</sup> ]	<i>The colon</i>
<b>Les guillemets</b> [lay geeymeh]	<i>The quotation marks</i>
<b>Le point</b> [luh pwa <sup>n</sup> ]	<i>The full stop</i>
<b>Le point d'exclamation</b> [luh pwa <sup>n</sup> dehksklamasyoh <sup>n</sup> ]	<i>The exclamation mark</i>
<b>Le point d'interrogation</b> [luh pwa <sup>n</sup> da <sup>n</sup> tehrogasyoh <sup>n</sup> ]	<i>The question mark</i>
<b>Le point-virgule</b> [luh pwa <sup>n</sup> veergewl]	<i>The semicolon</i>
<b>La virgule</b> [la veergewl]	<i>The comma</i>



3 Match each punctuation mark with its French name.

- :

« »

,

.

?

!

;
- Le point-virgule

• Le point

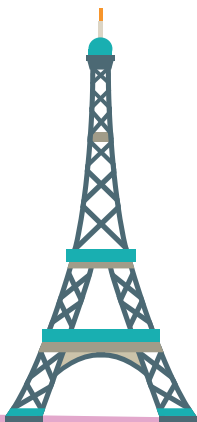
• Le point d'exclamation

• Les deux-points

• Les guillemets

• La virgule

• Le point d'interrogation



The comma (La virgule)

In French, the comma is used as a pause-marker, to separate elements of a similar nature (such as lists, complements, clauses) or to stress one element in the sentence. It is also used as a decimal point. For example, 2.5 in English is **2,5** in French. It is not, however, used for thousands or larger numbers, where a space or a full stop are used instead: 2,500 in English is **2 500** or **2.500** in French.

A comma is always used in front of **etc.** (**J'ai visité des capitales : Paris, Londres, Madrid, etc.**); and generally in front of **mais** (**Rachid voulait aller au marché, mais sa sœur préférait rester à la maison.**) except when the coordinated segments are short (**Sylviane est gentille mais bavarde.**) If the serial comma is optional and can therefore be used in English, it is never used in French. There is no comma before **et**: **J'ai mangé un croissant, une pomme et un yaourt.**

**Note:** when two sentences are joined by the coordinating conjunctions **et** or **ou**, the comma usually disappears: **Elle aime les maths et elle adore l'E.P.S.** There is no comma either with **ni**, except if it appears more than twice: **Tu ne parles ni l'italien ni le portugais.** But: **Elle ne parle ni l'italien, ni l'espagnol, ni l'allemand.**

4 Write commas if and where needed in the following sentences.



- a. Elle joue au football et au tennis.
- b. Je ne veux ni sucre ni lait dans mon café merci.
- c. Il y a environ 68 000 spectateurs dans le stade aujourd'hui.
- d. Carole et Lou ne jouent ni du violon ni de la flûte ni du piano.
- e. Nous avons vu Sophie, Carlos et Paulette.
- f. Les tomates ont augmenté de 3,5 %.
- g. Tu es déjà allé en Espagne mais tu n'es jamais allé au Portugal ?

The apostrophe (L'apostrophe)

Apostrophes are used to replace vowels so as to ease pronunciation. An apostrophe is always placed in front of a vowel or a silent **h** and never in front of a consonant. For example, if a noun or adjective starts with a vowel, **l'** will be used instead of **le** or **la**: **La + histoire → L'histoire; Le + éléphant → L'éléphant.**

When the letter **h** is aspirate (as in **Hollande** or **haricot**), the apostrophe cannot be used: **La Hollande; le haricot.**

The apostrophe is also used with personal pronouns (such as **je**, **me** and **te**) in front of a vowel or silent **h**; with **ça/ce** before **est**; and with the negation **ne** before a vowel.

5 Replace the letters with an apostrophe when needed in the following sentences.

- a. Tous les soirs, je écoute de la musique.
- b. Ce est la fin de le automne. Le hiver sera bientôt là !
- c. Parle plus fort ! Il ne te entend pas !
- d. Il ne arrivera pas avant huit heures ce soir.
- e. Le chien de Arthur a disparu !
- f. Je irai en Grèce mais je ne irai pas en Espagne.



The hyphen (Le trait d'union)

In French, the hyphen is used when a word is composed of two or more elements, to show a link between those words or parts of words. It can be found in compound words (**grand-père**), in hyphenated names (**Marie-France**), in set expressions (**c'est-à-dire, that is to say**), with the imperative (**vas-y, attends-moi**), with inversions (**peux-tu, irez-vous**), and with prefixes (**non-fumeur**).

With numbers, it is used between tens and units (**856 = huit cent cinquante-six**).

6 Revision: Fill in the blanks.

Cardinal numbers (Les nombres cardinaux)

1	un / une	5	cinq
2	deux	6	six
3	trois	7	sept
4	quatre	8	huit

9	.....	71	soixante et onze
10	dix	72	soixante-douze
11	onze	73	soixante-treize
12	douze	74	soixante-quatorze
13	treize	75	soixante-quinze
14	.....	76	.....
15	quinze	77	soixante-dix-sept
16	seize	78	soixante-dix-huit
17	.....	79	soixante-dix-neuf
18	dix-huit	80	quatre-vingts
19	dix-neuf	81	quatre-vingt-un
20	vingt	82	.....
21	.....	90	quatre-vingt-dix
22	vingt-deux	91	quatre-vingt-onze
30	trente	92	quatre-vingt-douze
31	trente et un	100	cent
32	trente-deux	101	cent un
40	quarante	102	cent deux
41	quarante et un	200	.....
42	quarante-deux	201	deux cent un
50	cinquante	202	deux cent deux
51	cinquante et un	1000	mille
52	cinquante-deux	2000	deux mille
60	soixante	2001	deux mille un
61	soixante et un	2002	deux mille deux
62	soixante-deux	100 000	cent mille
70	.....	1 000 000	un million

7 Complete the following rules for cardinal numbers. 

- a. There is a hyphen between ..... and units except where the coordinating conjunction ..... is used (only with number 1).
- b. In French, you only add an ..... to twenties and ..... when there is another number before them and if they are not followed by another number (**quatre-vingts** but **quatre-vingt-deux**; **deux cents** but **deux cent vingt**).
- c. **Mille** (*one thousand*) never takes an ..... It is .....
- d. Numbers used on their own are ..... in gender (**Je serai en France le 6 et le 11 avril**).
- e. .... is the only cardinal number that agrees with a noun in gender (..... **sucre** – ..... **tomate**).
- f. Though we say “one hundred” and “one thousand” in English, **cent** and **mille** are never preceded by .....



The plural form of hyphenated words  
(Le pluriel des mots composés)

Compound form		Examples
Noun + Noun Adjective + Adjective Noun + Adjective	Both plural	<b>Des bateaux-mouches</b> , <i>riverboats</i> <b>Des sourds-muets</b> , <i>deaf people</i> <b>Des grands-parents</b> , <i>grandparents</i>
Adverb + Noun Invariable + Noun Preposition + Noun Verb + Noun	Only noun takes the plural	<b>Des arrière-cours</b> , <i>backyards</i> <b>Des non-lieux</b> , <i>dismissals charges</i> <b>Des en-têtes</b> , <i>headings</i> <b>Des couvre-lits</b> , <i>bedspreads</i>
Verb + Verb	No change / Invariable	<b>Des laissez-passer</b> , <i>passes</i>
Noun + Preposition + Noun	Only first noun takes the plural	<b>Des arcs-en-ciel</b> , <i>rainbows</i>

**Note:** There are, of course, many exceptions!

**8** Use the phonetic transcription above to write the French words and expressions and write their English translation.

- a. Un savoir-faire → des ..... → .....
- b. Un chou-fleur → des ..... → .....
- c. Une belle-fille → des ..... → .....
- d. Un après-midi → des ..... → .....
- e. Un tire-bouchon → des ..... → .....
- f. Un chef-d'œuvre → des ..... → .....



## Quotation marks (Les guillemets)

French quotation marks « » are used rather than the English quotation marks “ ”.

They may be used to emphasize a word, to indicate the beginning and the end of a title, quotation or dialogue, or to introduce speech. They are often preceded by a colon.

**Note:** Inverted commas are not used on either side of a break within direct speech (« **Regardez, dit-il soudain, il pleut !** »). They are followed and preceded by a non-breakable space.

**Note how to say:** *Quote, Ouvrez les guillemets – Unquote, Fermez les guillemets.*

**9** Insert quotation marks where and if required in the following sentences.

- a. Jacques a dit : Tu dois aller te coucher.
- b. Je lui ai dit de parler plus fort.
- c. Ah oui, je vois... Il a encore oublié de faire ses devoirs !
- d. Le dernier livre de Philippe Labro s'intitule *Ma mère, cette inconnue*.
- e. Je ne comprends pas le mot îlet dans cette phrase.

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This easy-to-use workbook has been designed specifically for intermediate learners in French. It includes 180 fun-filled exercises (with answers) which follow a logical progression. You will be able to self-assess your level at the end of each chapter. Every aspect of the language has been covered, including grammar, spelling, vocabulary, syntax, pronunciation and accentuation.

- 180 fun-filled exercises (with answers) to learn French
- Tasks include: matching, fill the blanks, find the odd one, unscrambling exercises, crosswords, riddles and more
- Grammar, conjugation, spelling, pronunciation and accentuation
- Test yourself with our self-assessment tasks

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