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Contents

- [\[+\] Pronunciation](#)
 - [Vowels](#)
 - [Semi-vowels](#)
 - [Consonants](#)
 - [Nasals](#)
 - [Diphthongs](#)
 - [Exceptions](#)
- [\[+\] Phrase list](#)
 - [Basics](#)
 - [Problems](#)
 - [Numbers](#)
 - [\[+\] Time](#)
 - [Clock time](#)
 - [Duration](#)
 - [Days](#)
 - [Colors](#)
 - [\[+\] Transportation](#)
 - [Bus and Train](#)
 - [Directions](#)
 - [Taxi](#)
 - [Money](#)
 - [Eating](#)
 - [Bars](#)
 - [Shopping](#)
 - [Authority](#)

French (*français*) is a Romance language originating in [France](#) but spoken in many other parts of Europe including Southern [Belgium](#) ([Wallonia](#) and [Brussels](#)), Western [Switzerland](#), [Monaco](#) and [Luxembourg](#). In North America, French is spoken primarily in [Quebec](#), [New Brunswick](#), [Ontario](#) and parts of [Manitoba](#) but is present in almost every other province in [Canada](#). Although Canada is a bilingual nation, French is spoken by a minority of citizens in all the other provinces and territories. It is also found in parts of the [United States](#), primarily in the state of [Louisiana](#) and the northern part of the states of [Maine](#), [New Hampshire](#) and [Vermont](#). Other countries speaking French include former French colonies in [North Africa](#) and [West Africa](#); in [Haiti](#), [Martinique](#), [Guadeloupe](#), [Saint Barthelemy](#) and [Saint Martin](#) in the Caribbean; in [French Guiana](#) in [South America](#); in [Vietnam](#), [Laos](#) and [Cambodia](#) in [Southeast Asia](#); in [New Caledonia](#), [Tahiti](#) and numerous other islands in the [Indian Ocean](#) and in [Oceania](#). It has long been the language of international diplomacy and communication, and although largely supplanted by English since World War II, it remains *de rigueur* (of obligatory requirement) for educated people in many societies around the world to have some level of basic French ability. It is also an official language of the UN and the EU.

There are many differences between French spoken in Québec and that spoken in France. One is state and one is king french. The two main differences are that Québec has retained many 18th & 19th century French words, while French spoken in France has incorporated many English words. Furthermore, aside from Europe & Québec, many French-speaking regions have incorporated many local words or formed a distinctive dialect/language known as creole.

[Francophonie](#) can help you locate French-speaking regions.

Pronunciation

Like that of English, unlike almost all the other Romance languages, French spelling is not very phonetic. The same letter used in two different words can make two different sounds, and many letters are not pronounced at all. In general, it's not impossible to sound out words, but suffice it to say that many experienced non-native French speakers (and even some native speakers) mispronounce words often.

One thing to note is that final consonants of a word are usually dropped: *allez* (go) is pronounced *ahl-AY*, not *ahl-AYZ*; *tard* (late) is pronounced *tar*, not *tard*. But if the next word begins with a vowel, the consonant may be pronounced; this is called *liaison*. A final 'e' is also usually silent if the word has more than one syllable, except in parts of southern France, especially Toulouse.

Stress is fairly even in French, but the stress almost always falls on the last syllable.

For many French words, it is impossible to write something which, when pronounced as English, sounds like the French word. Use the transliteration as a guide to *liaison* and the French spelling to pronounce the vowels.

Vowels

Vowels in French can have accent marks, which generally have no noticeable impact on pronunciation, but they often distinguish between homophones in writing (*ou*, meaning or, and *où*, meaning where, are pronounced the same). The only really important one is *é*, which is *always* pronounced "ay", and changes the meaning of the word.

a, à	like "a" in "fat"
â	like "a" in "father"
e	in most cases a central neutral vowel ("schwa") like "a" in "about", sometimes not pronounced at all, sometimes like "é" or "è"
é, è, ê, ai, -er, -es, -ez	é is towards "e" in "set" or "ay" in "day", and è is more nasal, like the a in "cake" in English, except without the "y" sound at the end. They are not equivalent and they make very distinct sounds.
i, î	like "ee" in "see" but shorter and tenser
o, ô, au, eau	generally like "oa" in "boat" in American English or "aw" in "law" in British English, can be considered equivalent
u, û	like a very tight, frontal "oo" sound (purse your lips as if to pronounce "oo" as in "soon" but try to pronounce "ee") - <i>uu</i> in transcriptions
ou	like "oo" in "food", but a pure vowel
y	like "ee" in "see"; also sometimes used as a consonant, pronounced the same as in English (in 'yes' for example).
eu	between "ew" in "dew" and "ur" in "burp"; written <i>eu</i> or <i>uh</i> in transcriptions
Semi-vowels	
oi	like "wa" in "walk"
oui	like "wee" in "week"
ui	like "wee" in "week", but with a French u instead of the w
œ	a bit like "eu" but more "open". The distinction between œ and "eu" is very subtle and often irrelevant.

Consonants

Note: Most final consonants are silent except for c, q, f, l, and r (except in the combination "-er", normally found in verb infinitives). Note that the plural ending "-ent" for verbs is *never* pronounced, though it is pronounced in other words.

b	like "b" in "bed"
c	like "k" in "sky" (before "a", "o", and "u" or before a consonant), like "s" in "sun" (before "e", "i", and "y")
ç	like "s" in "sun" (this letter can only be written before "a", "o", or "u")
d	like "d" in "death" (but a bit heavier than in English, and pronounced on the tongue)
f	like "f" in "fun"
g	like "g" in "go" (before "a", "o", and "u" or before a consonant), like "g" in "sabotage" (before "e", "i" and "y").
gu	like "g" in "goose" (before "e", "i", "y")
gn	like "ny" in "canyon". This is particularly difficult when followed by oi , as in baignoire (<i>beh-NYWAR</i>) "bathtub".
h	usually silent, but may sometimes prevent a <i>liaison</i> with the former word
j	like "g" in "sabotage"
k	like "k" in "sky" (not native to French)
l, ll	like "l" in "like"; some exceptions for "ll" in the combination "ille" (pronounced ee-y)
m	like "m" in "me"
n	like "n" in "nurse" (but see Nasals below)
p	like "p" in "sport"
q(u)	most of the time like "k" in "sky" (not like "qu" in "square"); in some words like "qu" in "square" (generally before an "a") or the same but with a French u (generally before an "i")
r	guttural; kind of like coughing up a hairball (similar to a German "ch")
s	like "s" in "sun"; like "z" in "zero" (between two vowels)
ch	like "sh" in "bush"; sometimes like "k" in "sky" (in words of Greek origin mostly)
t, th	like "t" in "stop"
v	like "v" in "value"
w	only in foreign words, mostly like "w" in "wise" and sometimes like "v" in "value" (in particular, "wagon" is "vagon" and "WC" is "VC"!)
x	either ks (like "x" in "exit") or gz
z	like "z" in "zero"
ph	like "f" in "fun" and like "ph" in "Philadelphia"

Nasals

an, en, em	in standard French, like "an" in "croissant" and in Quebec French, like "uh" in "uh-huh" (not always pronounced as a nasal, especially if the n or m is doubled: <i>emmental</i> is pronounced as a normal "emm" sound)
on	nasal ô - distinguishing between this and "an" is tricky, it's a deeper, more closed sound
in, ain	in standard French, like "uh" in "uh-huh" and in Quebec French, like "ain" in "rain"
un	nasal eu (pronounced the same as 'in' in Parisian French)

Diphthongs

ail	like "i" in "fight"
ill	either literally, or like "y" in "three years", with some exceptions (<i>ville</i> is <i>veel</i> , <i>fil</i> is <i>feey</i>)

Exceptions

- When there is an accent mark on "e", it prevents diphthongs. Letters should be pronounced separately, following the rule for the accented letter. Example: *énergumène*, (rowdy character), *réunion* (meeting).
- A diaeresis (¨) may also be used to prevent diphthongs on "e", "u" and "i". Example: maïs (*Indian corn or maize*).
- In the combinations "gue" and "gui", the "u" should not be pronounced: it is there only to force the pronunciation of "g" as in "go". If the "u" is pronounced, a diaeresis is added on the 2nd vowel : aiguë (sharp).
- In the combination "geo", the "e" should not be pronounced, it is only there to force the pronunciation of "g" as in "sabotage" (in the case the "e" should be pronounced, it is indicated with an accent mark as in *géologie*).

Note you should not pronounce the "G" where "NG" is used in the pronunciation hint.

Phrase list

Basics

Common signs

OPEN	Ouvert
CLOSED	Fermé
ENTRANCE	Entrée
EXIT	Sortie
PUSH	Poussez
PULL	Tirez
TOILET	Toilette
MEN	Hommes
WOMEN	Femmes
FORBIDDEN	Interdit, Défendu

Hello. (*formal*)
Bonjour. (*bohn-ZHOOR*)

Hello. (*informal*)
Salut. (*sah-LUU*)

How are you? (*formal*)
Comment allez-vous ? (*kaw-mahng t-AH-lay VOO*)

How are you? (*informal*)
Comment vas-tu? (*kaw-mahng vah TEW*)

How are you? (*informal*)
Comment ça va ? (*kaw-mahng sah VAH*)

Fine, thank you.
Bien, merci. (*byang, mair-SEE*)

What is your name? (lit. "How do you call yourself?")
Comment vous appelez vous ? (*kaw-mahng vooz AP-lay VOO?*)

What is your name? (*informal*)
Comment t'appelles-tu? (*kaw-mahng tah-pell TEW?*)

My name is _____.
Je m'appelle _____. (*zhuh mah-PELL _____*)

Nice to meet you.
Enchanté(e). (*ahn-shahn-TAY*)
Enchanté (said by a male)
Enchantée (said by a female)

Please (*formal*)
S'il vous plaît. (*seel voo PLEH*)
or Je vous prie. (*zhuh vous PREE*)

Please (*informal*)
S'il te plaît. (*seel tuh PLEH*)

Thank you.
Merci. (*merr-SEE*)

You're welcome. (lit. "of nothing")
De rien. (*duh RYANG*).

Yes.
Oui. (*WEE*)

No.
Non. (*NOHN*)

Excuse me.
Pardon. (*pahr-DOHN*)
or Excusez-moi. (*ehk-SKEW-zay MWAH*)

(I am) Sorry.
(Je suis) Désolé(e). (*zhuh swee DAY-zoh-LAY*)
or Excusez-moi. (*eck-SKEW-zay MWAH*)

What's the time?
Quelle heure est-il ? (*kel euhr et-EEL?*);

Goodbye
Au revoir. (*oh ruh-VWAHR*)

Goodbye (*informal*)
Salut. (*sah-LUU*)

I can't speak French [well].

Je ne parle pas [bien] français. (*zhuh nuh PAHRL pah [byang] frahn-SEH*)

Do you speak English?
Parlez-vous anglais ? (*par-lay VOO ahng-LEH?*)

Is there someone here who speaks English?
Est-ce qu'il y a quelqu'un ici qui parle anglais ? (*ess keel-ee-AH kel-KUHN ee-see kee PAHRL lahng-LEH*)
or Y a-t-il quelqu'un ici qui parle anglais ? (*ee yah-TEEL kel-KUHN ee-see kee PAHRL lahng-LEH*)

Help!
Au secours! (*oh suh-KOOR*)

Look out!
Attention ! (*ah-tahn-see-OHN*)

Have a nice day
Bonne journée (*bong zhoor-NAY*)

Good Day
Bonjour (*bong-zhoo(r)*)

Good morning.
Bon matin. (*bong mah-TANG*)

Good evening.
Bonsoir. (*bong-SWAHR*)

Good night.
Bonne nuit. (*bawn-NWEE*)

Good night (*to sleep*)
Bonne nuit. (*bawn-NWEE*)

Sweet dreams
Fais de beaux rêves (*feh duh bo RAI-vuh*)

I don't understand.
Je ne comprends pas. (*zhuh nuh KOHM-prahn pah*)

Where is the toilet?
Où sont les toilettes ? (*OOH sohn lay twah-LET?*)

How do you say _____?
Comment dit-on _____ ? (*koh-mahn dee-TONG _____ ?*)

What is this/that called?
Comment appelle-t-on ceci/ça ? (*koh-mahn tah-pell-TONG suh-SEE/SAH?*)

Problems

Leave me alone.
Laissez-moi tranquille! (*less-ay mwah trahn-KEEL!*)

Buzz off.
Dégage! (*day-GAHZH!*) / Va t'en! (*va TAHN*)

Don't touch me!
Ne me touchez pas! (*nuh muh TOOSH-ay PAH!*)

I'm calling the police.
J'appelle la police. (*zhah-PELL la poh-LEES*)

Police!
Police! (*poh-LEES*)

Stop! Rapist!
Arrêtez! Au viol! (*ah-reh-TAY! oh vee-YOL!*)

Stop! Thief!
Arrêtez! Au voleur! (*ah-reh-TAY! oh vo-LEUR!*)

Help!
Au secours! (*oh suh-KOOR!*)

Fire!
Au feu! (*oh FUH!*)

I need your help.
Aidez-moi, s'il vous plaît! (*aih-day MWAH, SEEL voo PLEH!*)

It's an emergency.
C'est une urgence! (*seh tuun uur-ZAHNS*)

I'm lost.
Je suis perdu. (*ZHUH swee pehr-DUU'*)

I've lost my bag.
J'ai perdu mon sac. (*zhay pehr-DUU mohn SAK*)

I've lost my wallet.
J'ai perdu mon portefeuille. (*zhay pehr-DUU mohn POHR-tuh-fuhy*)

I'm sick.
Je suis malade. (*zhuh swee mah-LAD*)

I've been injured.
Je me suis blessé. (*zhuh muh swee bleh-SAY*)

I need a doctor.

J'ai besoin d'un médecin. (*zhay buh-ZWAHN dun may-TSAN*)
 Can I use your phone?
 Puis-je utiliser votre téléphone? (*pwee zhuh uu-tee-lee-ZAY vot-ruh tay-lay-FONE*)
 What is it?
 Qu'y a-t-il? (*kee ah-TEEL*)

Numbers

1 un/une (*uhn*)/(*uun*)
 2 deux (*duh*)
 3 trois (*trwah*)
 4 quatre (*kahtr*)
 5 cinq (*sank*)
 6 six (*sees*)
 7 sept (*set*)
 8 huit (*weet*)
 9 neuf (*neuf*)
 10 dix (*deece*)
 11 onze (*onz*)
 12 douze (*dooz*)
 13 treize (*trez*)
 14 quatorze (*kat-ORZ*)
 15 quinze (*kangz*)
 16 seize (*sez*)
 17 dix-sept (*dees-SET*)
 18 dix-huit (*dee-ZWEET*)
 19 dix-neuf (*deez-NUF*)
 20 vingt (*vang*)
 21 vingt-et-un (*vang-tay-UHN*)
 22 vingt-deux (*vant-DUH*)
 23 vingt-trois (*vant-TRWAH*)
 30 trente (*trahnt*)
 40 quarante (*ka-RAHNT*)
 50 cinquante (*sang-KAHNT*)
 60 soixante (*swah-SAHNT*)
 70 soixante-dix (*swah-sahnt-DEES*)
 septante (*sep-TAHNT*) in Belgium and Switzerland
 80 quatre-vingt (*kah-truh-VANG*) in Belgium also
 huitante (*weet-AHNT*) in Switzerland (except Geneva)
 octante (*oct-AHNT*) in Switzerland
 90 quatre-vingt-dix (*kah-truh-vang-DEES*)
 nonante (*noh-NAHNT*) in Belgium and Switzerland

100 cent (*sahng*)
 200 deux cent (*duh sahng*)
 300 trois cent (*trwah sahng*)
 1000 mille (*meel*)
 2000 deux mille (*duh meel*)
 1,000,000 un million (*ung mee-LYOHN*)
 Note: treated as a noun when alone: one million euros would be *un million d'euros*.
 number _____ (*train, bus, etc.*)
 numéro _____ (*nuu-may-ROH*)
 half demi (*duh-MEE*), moitié (*mwah-tee-AY*)
 less moins (*mwihn*)
 more plus (*pluus*) / no more : plus (*pluu*) so this time, the "S" is mute

Time

now maintenant (*mant-NAHNG*)
 later plus tard (*plew TAHR*)
 before avant (*ah-VAHNG*)
 after après (*ah-PREH*)
 morning le matin (*luh mah-TANG*)
 in the morning au matin (*oh mah-TANG*)
 dans la matinée (*dahn lah mah-tee-NAY*)
 afternoon l'après-midi (*lah-preh-mee-DEE*)
 in the afternoon à l'après-midi (*ah lah-preh-mee-DEE*)
 evening le soir (*luh SWAHR*)
 in the evening dans la soirée (*dahn lah swah-RAY*)
 au soir (*oh SWAHR*)
 night la nuit (*lah NWEE*)
 in the night à la nuit (*ah lah NWEE*)

Clock time

(Note on time: the French use the 24 hour clock, with midnight being 0h00 (note that, except on digital clocks, the in France an 'h' is used as a separator between hours and minutes as opposed to a colon in many other countries). However, the 12-hour clock is making some inroads and saying 1-11 in the afternoon or evening will be understood.

hour heure (*ur*)
 minute minute (*mee-NUUT*)
 From 1-30 past the hour / ___ plus ___
 [hour] + plus (*pluu*) + [number]
 Example: 10h20 dix heure plus vingt (*deez er pluu VAGN*)
 For 1-29 until the hour / ___ 'til ___
 [next hour] + moins (*mwan*)
 quarter quart/le quart (*KAHR/luh KAHR*)
 7h15 = sept heures et quart (*set er eh luh KAHR*)

16h45 = dix sept heures moins le quart (*deez SET er mwan luh KAHR*)
 half-past : demie (*duh-MEE*); demi (after midnight or noon, *duh-MEE*)
 10h30 = dix heure et demie (*deez er eh duh-MEE*)
 one o'clock AM, 1h00
 une heure du matin (*uun er duu ma-TAN*)
 two o'clock AM, 2h00
 deux heures du matin (*dooz er duu ma-TAN*)
 noon, 12h00
 midi (*mee-DEE*)
 one o'clock PM, 13h00
 treize heure (*traiz er*)
 une heure de l'après-midi (*uun er duh la-preh-mee-DEE*)
 two o'clock PM, 14h00
 quatorze heure (*KAH-torz er*)
 deux heures de l'après-midi (*duz er duh la-preh-mee-DEE*)
 six o'clock PM, 18h00
 dix-huit heure (*deez-weet ER*)
 six heures du soir (*sees er dew SWAR*)
 half past seven, 19h30
 sept heures et demi (*SET er eh duh-MEE*)
 dix-neuf heures trente (*DEE-znufer TRAHNT*)
 midnight 0h00
 minuit (*mee-NWEE*)

Duration

_____ minute(s)
 _____ minute(s) (*mee-NUUT*)
 _____ hour(s)
 _____ heure(s) (*er*)
 _____ day(s)
 _____ jour(s) (*zhoor*)
 _____ week(s)
 _____ semaine(s) (*suh-MEN*)
 _____ month(s)
 _____ mois (*mwa*)
 _____ year(s)
 _____ an(s) (*ahng*), année(s) (*ah-NAY*)
 daily
 quotidienne (*ko-tee-DYEN*)
 weekly
 hebdomadaire (*eb-doh-ma-DAIYR*)
 monthly
 mensuel (*mang-suu-WEL*)
 yearly
 annuel (*ah-nuu-WEL*)

Days

today
 aujourd'hui (*oh-zhoor-DWEE*)
 yesterday
 hier (*ee-yair*)
 tomorrow
 demain (*duh-MANG*)
 this week
 cette semaine (*set suh-MEN*)
 last week
 la semaine dernière (*lah suh-MEN dehr-NYAIR*)
 next week
 la semaine prochaine (*lah suh-MEN praw-SHEN*)

Note: French calendars normally start on Monday.

Monday
 lundi (*luhn-DEE*)
 Tuesday
 mardi (*mahr-DEE*)
 Wednesday
 mercredi (*mehr-kruh-DEE*)

Thursday
 jeudi (*juh-DEE*)
 Friday
 vendredi (*vahn-druh-DEE*)
 Saturday
 samedi (*sahm-DEE*)
 Sunday
 dimanche (*dee-MAHNGSH*)

Colors

Note: Like other romance languages, nouns in french are either "masculine" or "feminine" and adjectives vary accordingly.

black
 noir/noire (*nwahr*)
 white
 blanc/blanche (*blahnng/blahnsh*)
 gray
 gris/grise (*gree/greez*)
 red
 rouge (*roozh*)
 blue
 bleu/bleue (*bluh*)
 yellow
 jaune (*zhohn*)
 green
 vert/verte (*vair/vairt*)
 orange
 orange (*aw-RAHNGZH*)
 purple
 violet/violette (*vyaw-LEH/vyaw-LET*)
 brown
 brun/brune (*bruhn/brewn*)
 or marron (*MAH-rohn*)

Transportation

Bus and Train

How much is a ticket to _____?
 Combien coûte le billet pour _____? (*kom-BYAN koot luh bee-YEH poor*)
 One ticket to _____, please.
 Un billet pour _____, s'il vous plaît. (*ung bee-YEH poor _____ seel voo pleh*)
 Where does this train/bus go?
 Où va ce train/bus? (*OO va suh trahn/buus?*)
 Where is the train/bus to _____?
 Où est le train/bus pour _____? (*OO eh luh trahn/buus poor _____*)
 Does this train/bus stop in _____?
 Ce train/bus s'arrête-t-il à _____? (*suh trahn/buus sah-reh-tuh-TEEL ah _____*)
 When does the train/bus for _____ leave?
 Quand part le train/bus pour _____? (*kahn par luh trahn/buus poor _____*)
 When will this train/bus arrive in _____?
 Quand ce train/bus arrivera à _____? (*kahn suh trahn/buus ah-ree-vuh-RAH ah _____*)
 the/this shuttle
 la/cette navette (*lah/set nah-VET*) (also means a tatting shuttle)
 a one-way ticket
 un aller simple (*uhn ah-LAY SAM-pluh*)
 a round trip ticket
 un aller-retour (*uhn ah-LAY ruh-TOOR*)

Directions

Where is _____?
 Où se trouve _____? (*oo suh tr-OO-v _____*)

...the train station?
...la gare? (*lah gahr?*)
...the bus station?
...la gare routière? (*lah gahr roo-TYEHR?*)
...the airport?
...l'aéroport? (*lehr-oh-POR?*)
...the American/Canadian/Australian/British embassy?
...l'ambassade americaine/canadienne/australienne/anglaise?
(*lahm-bah-SAHD a-may-ree-KEN/ka-na-DYEN/os-trah-lee-EN/ahn-GLEZ*)

Taxi

Taxi!
Taxi ! (*tack-SEE!*)
Take me to _____, please.
Déposez-moi à _____, je vous prie. (*DAY-poh-zay-MWAH ah _____, zhuh voo PREE*)
How much does it cost to get to _____?
Combien cela coûte-t-il d'aller à _____ ? (*kahm-BYENG suh-LA koo-TEEL dah-LAY ah _____?*)
Take me there, please.
Amenez-moi là, je vous prie. (*am-nay-mwah LAH, zhuh voo PREE*)

Money

Do you accept American/Australian/Canadian dollars?
Acceptez-vous les dollars américains/australiens/canadiens ?
(*ahk-sep-tay VOO leh doh-LAHR ah-may-ree-KANG/aws-trah-LYAHNG/kah-nah-DYAHNG?*)
Do you accept British pounds?
Acceptez-vous les livres Sterling ? (*ahk-sep-tay VOO leh leevr stehr-LING?*)
Do you accept credit cards?
Acceptez-vous les cartes de credit ? (*ahk-sep-tay VOO leh kahrt duh kray-DEE?*)
Can you change money for me?
Pouvez-vous me faire le change ? (*poo-vay-VOO muh fehr luh SHAHNZH?*)
Where can I get money changed?
Où puis-je faire le change ? (*oo PWEEZH fehr luh SHAHNZH?*)
Can you change a traveler's check for me?
Pouvez-vous me faire le change sur un traveler's chèque ? (*poo-vay-VOO muh fehr luh SHAHNZH suur ung trahv-leurz SHECK?*)
Where can I get a traveler's check changed?
Où puis-je changer un traveler's chèque ? (*oo PWEEZH shahng-ZHAY ung trahv-leurz SHECK?*)
What is the exchange rate?
Quel est le taux de change ? (*KELL eh luh TAW duh SHAHNZH?*)
Where is an automatic teller machine (ATM)?
Où puis-je trouver un distributeur de billets ? (*oo PWEEZH troo-VAY ung dees-tree-buu-TEUR duh bee-YEAH?*)

Eating

fixed-price meal
menu (*muh-NUU*)
à la carte
à la carte (*ah lah KAHRT*)
breakfast (*in France*)
petit-déjeuner (*ptee-day-zheu-NAY*)
breakfast (*in Switzerland/Belgium/Canada/Nord-Pas-de-Calais*)
déjeuner (*day-zheu-NAY*)
lunch (*in France*)
déjeuner (*day-zhuh-NAY*)
lunch (*Switzerland/Belgium/Quebec/Nord-Pas-de-Calais*)
dîner (*dee-NAY*)
tea (*meal*)
thé (*tay*)

dinner/supper (*in France*)
dîner (*dee-NAY*)
dinner/supper (*Elsewhere*)
souper (*soo-PAY*)
I would like _____.
Je voudrais _____. (*zhuh voo-DREH _____*)
I would like a dish containing _____.
Je voudrais un plat avec _____. (*zhuh voo-DREH ung plah ah-VEK _____*)
chicken
(du) poulet (*duu poo-LEH*)
beef
(du) boeuf (*duu BUFF*)
deer
du cerf (*dü SEHR*)
fish
du poisson (*duu pwa-SONG*)
salmon
du saumon (*duu so-MONG*)
tuna
du thon (*duu TONG*)
whiting
du merlan (*duu mehr-LANG*)
cod
de la morue (*duh lah moh-RUU*)
seafood
des fruits de mer (*deh frwee duh MEHR*)
Literally "fruits of the sea"
dulce
de la dulce (*duh lah DUULS*)
lobster
du homard (*duu oh-MAR*)
de la langouste (*duh lah lan-goost*) (rock lobster)
clams
des palourdes (*deh pah-LOORD*)
oysters
des huîtres (*dez WEETR*)
mussels
des moules (*deh MOOL*)
snails
des escargots (*dez es-car-GOH*)
frogs
des grenouilles (*deh gruh-NOOEY*)
ham
du jambon (*duu zahng-BONG*)
pork
du porc/cochon (*dü POHR/dü coh-SHONG*)
Note: cochon is much less formal.
boar
du sanglier (*dü sahng-GLYAY*)
sausage
des saucisses (*deh so-SEESS*)
cheese
du fromage (*duu froh-MAHZH*)
eggs
des oeufs (*dehz UH*)
one egg
un oeuf (*un UF*)
salad
une salade (*uun sah-LAHD*)
(fresh) vegetables
des légumes (frais) (*deh lay-guum FREH*)
(fresh) fruit
des fruits (frais) (*frwee (freh)*)
bread
du pain (*dew pang*)
toast
rôtis (*roh-TEE*)
coffee
café (*kah-FAY*)
tea (*drink*)
thé (*tay*)
juice
jus (*zhuu*)

(bubbly) water
eau gazeuse (*oh gah-ZUHZ*)
water
eau (*oh*)
Note: If you ask for "water", you will get mineral water. To specify "tap water", say "eau du robinet" (*OH doo roh-bee-NEH*) or ask for a carafe of water "une carafe d'eau" (*OON cahf-AHF doh*).

beer
bière (*byehr*)
red/white wine
vin rouge/blanc (*vang roozh/blahng*)
May I have some _____?
Puis-je avoir du _____ ? (*pwee zhuh ah-VWAHR duu*)

salt
sel (*sel*)
black pepper
poivre (*pwavr*)
garlic
ail (*aigh*)
butter
beurre (*bur*)
vegetarian (*male*)
végétarien (*vey-zhey-tar-YENG*)
vegetarian (*female*)
végétarienne (*vey-zhey-tar-YEN*)

Excuse me, waiter/waitress?
S'il vous plaît, monsieur/madame ? (*seell voo PLEH muh-syuh/ma-dahm*)
Note: "garçon" (boy) is offensive and should be avoided.

I'm finished.
J'ai fini. (*zhay fee-NEE*)

It was delicious.
C'était délicieux. (*say-tay deli-SYUH*)

Can you please clear the plates?
Pouvez-vous débarrasser la table, s'il vous plaît ? (*poovay voo DEH-bahr-a-seh lah tah-bluh seel voo play*)

The check, please.
L'addition s'il vous plaît. (*lah-dee-SYOHN seel voo play*)

Bars

Do you serve alcohol?
Servez-vous des boissons alcoolisées ? (*sur-VAY voo day bwa-sson al-co-ol-ee-SAY*)

Is there table service?
Est-ce que vous servez à la table ? (*Ess-ser ker voo ser-VAY ah lah TAHBL?*)

A beer/two beers, please.
Une bière/deux bières, s'il vous plaît. (...)

A glass of red/white wine, please.
Un verre de vin rouge/blanc, s'il vous plaît. (...)

A quarter liter of beer, please
Un demi, s'il-vous-plaît. (...)

A pint, please.
Une pinte, s'il vous plaît. (*oon peent, seel-voo-PLUH*)

A bottle, please.
Une bouteille, s'il vous plaît. (...)
_____ (*hard liquor*) and _____ (*mixer*), please.
_____ et _____, s'il vous plaît. (...)

whiskey
whisky (...)

vodka
vodka (...)

rum
rhum (...)

water
de l'eau (*duh loh*)

club soda
soda (...)

tonic water
Schweppes (...)

orange juice

jus d'orange (*joo d'or-AHNJ*)

Coke (*soda*)
Coca (...)

One more, please.
Encore un/une autre, s'il vous plaît. (*ahn-KOHR ahn/oon oh-truh, seel-voo-PLUH*)

Another round, please.
Un autre pour la table, s'il vous plaît. (...)

When is closing time?
À quelle heure fermez-vous ? (*ah kell er fer-MAY voo*)

Shopping

Do you have this in my size?
Avez-vous ceci dans ma taille ? (*AH-veh-VOO say-SEE dan sma THAI*)

How much (is this)?
Combien (ça) coûte ? (*COMM-bee-yen (SAH) coot*)

That's too expensive.
C'est trop cher. (*say-TRO-shair*)

Would you take _____?
Pourriez-vous accepter _____ ? (*poor-yay-VOOZ ahk-sep-TAY*)

expensive
cher (*shehr*)

cheap
bon marché (*bong mar-SHAY*) (not declined. *Elles sont bon marché.*)

I can't afford it.
Je n'ai pas les moyens. (*zhe nay pah leh mwah-YAHNG*)

I don't want it.
Je n'en veux pas. (*zhe nahng veu pah*)

You're cheating me.
Vous essayez de me faire avoir. (*vooz ess-ey-YE duh muh fehr ah-VWAHR*)

I'm not interested.
Je ne suis pas intéressé. (*zhen swee pahz-ann-tay-ress-SAY*)

OK, I'll take it.
D'accord, je le/la prends. (*dah-kor zhe luh/lah prahn*)

Can I have a bag?
Pourrais-je avoir un sac ? (*poo-REHZH ah-VWAR ung sahk*)

Do you ship (overseas)?
Livrez-vous (outre-mer/à l'étranger) ? (*leev-ray-VOO ootr-MEHR/ah lay-trahm-ZHAY*)

I need...
J'ai besoin... (*zhay buh-ZWANG*)

...toothpaste.
...du dentifrice. (*duu dahn-tee-FREESS*)

...a toothbrush.
...d'une brosse à dents. (*duun bross ah DAHN*)

...tampons.
...des tampons. (*day tahm-POHN*)

...soap.
...du savon. (*duu sah-VOHN*)

...shampoo.
...du shampoing. (*duu shahm-PWAHN*)

...pain reliever. (*e.g., aspirin or ibuprofen*)
...d'un analgésique (*aspirine, ibuprofène*):. (*dun ah-nal-zhay-ZEEK (ahs-pee-REEN/ee-buu-proh-FEN)*)

...cold medicine.
...d'un médicament pour le rhume. (*dung may-dee-kah-MAHNG poor luh RUUM*)

...stomach medicine.
...d'un remède pour l'estomac. (*dung ray-MED poor less-toh-MAHK*)

...a razor.
...d'un rasoir. (*dung rah-ZWAR*)

...batteries.
...des piles. (*day PEEL*)

...an umbrella. (rain)
...d'un parapluie. (*doon pah-ra-ploo-ee*)

...an umbrella. (sun)
...d'une ombrelle. (*doon ohm-brehl-ee*)

...sunblock lotion.

...de la crème solaire. (*deh lah crehm so-LEHR*)
...a postcard.
...d'une carte postale. (*doon kahrt post-AL*)
...postage stamps.
...des timbres. (*dayz TAHM-burs*)
...writing paper.
...du papier à lettres. (*doo pap-YEH ah LEH-TR*)
...a pen.
...d'un stylo. (*doon STEE-loh*)
...English-language books.
...des livres en anglais. (*dayz LEE-vruhs ehn ahngh-LEH*)
...English-language magazines.
...des revues en anglais. (*dayz REH-voos ehn ahngh-LEH*)
...an English-language newspaper.
...d'un journal en anglais. (*doon zhoar-NAL ahn ahng-LEH*)
...a French-English dictionary.
...d'un dictionnaire français-anglais. (*uhn deect-shee-ohn-AIR frahn-SEH ahng-LEH*)

Authority

I haven't done anything wrong.
Je n'ai fait rien de mal. (*zhuh nay fay ree-AHN duh MAL*)
It was a misunderstanding.
C'est une erreur. (*say uhn air-ehur*)
Where are you taking me?
Où m'emmenez-vous? (*ooh mehm-en-EH voo*)
Am I under arrest?
Suis-je en état d'arrestation? (*SWEE zhuh ahn EH-tah dahr-es-tash-ON*)
I am an American/Australian/British/Canadian citizen. (m)
Je suis un citoyen américain/australien/anglais/canadien. (*zhuh swee uhn see-twa-YAHN a-may-ree-CAN/os-trah-lee-AHN/ahn-GLEH/ka-na-DYAN*)
I am an American/Australian/British/Canadian citizen. (f)
Je suis une citoyenne
américaine/australienne/anglaise/canadienne. (*zhe s'wee oon see-twa-YEN a-may-ree-KEN/os-trah-lee-EN/ahn-GLEZ/ka-na-DYEN*)
I want to talk to the American/Australian/British/Canadian embassy or consulate.
Je veux parler à l'ambassade ou le consulat
américain/australien/anglais/canadien. (*ZHUH vuh pahr-LEUR ah lahm-ba-SAHD oo KAHN-sul-aht a-may-ree-CAN/os-trah-lee-AHN/ahn-GLEH/ka-na-DYAN*)
I want to talk to a lawyer.
Je voudrais parler à un avocat. (*ZHUH vood-RAY par-lehr ah uhn AH-vo-caht*) ("avocat" also means "avocado" but people don't normally talk to avocados!)
Can I just pay a fine now?
Pourrais-je simplement payer une amende? (*poo-RAYZH sampl-MANG pay-AY yn ah-MAHND*)
[offering bribe] Will you accept this in place of my fine?
Acceptez-vous ceci au lieu de mon amende? (*accept-eh voo suh-see oh lee-YUH duh mon deh-MAND*)
Note: Only consider attempting this in third world countries. DO NOT try to do this in France or Canada as it will get you in worse trouble!