



20 Tips to improve your French from today

- READING
- WRITING
- LISTENING
- SPEAKING

With resources and links

Hi and welcome to this quick guide to improving your French!

I have gathered a variety of ideas and resources that I have built up over time as a language coach and trainer that will help you gain confidence using your French, I'm letting you into my top tips!

It's all about bringing the language alive and allowing it to be part of your life and not just in the classroom, and if you enjoy it, and find fun in your learning, it will make it SO much easier.

From a young girl I surrounded myself in the culture and language, so that I was in a French world as much as I could be outside of France so try and do the same where you are. If you're living in France it's about getting out of that expat bubble within your home and your community and bringing in the Frenchness!

I hope you enjoy these, please DO let me know how you get on - drop me a line or pop over to my [Facebook](#) group and join in!

A très bientôt

Nicky

Listening



1. Radio - passive listening.

Have French radio playing in the background whilst doing your daily chores, or driving etc. No need to actively listen, simply let the sounds be absorbed by your ears. **Tune In** radio is a great app to find French radio stations. <https://tunein.com/>



2. Music - make listening fun!

Listen to French music, try and sing with the lyrics. The beauty with music is that you find yourself singing the songs naturally, as they enter your brain easily. Singing in French also helps with pronunciation.

Try **Lyrics Gap** for exercises with lyrics.

www.lyricsgaps.com/. Or you can listen to my **Spotify playlist** of great French songs. <https://spoti.fi/47MRgTF>



3. Podcasts - active listening

Podcasts are like radio programmes that you can listen to again and again. This is what makes them great for languages as you can keep replaying them to understand more and more, you can also slow down their speed. **Inner French** is a great podcast to listen to, he speaks slowly and is easy to listen to.

innerfrench.com/podcast/

4. GPS/Sat Nav

Put your GPS on in French!! Start with a route that you know, for example from the supermarket to home. A great way to learn directions! Just don't do it when you don't know where you are!

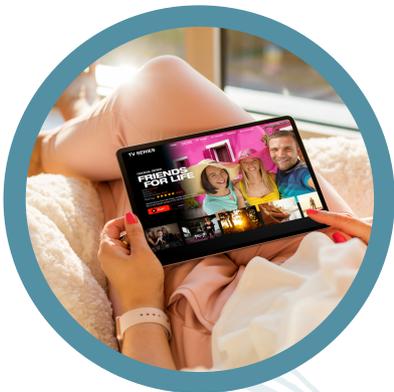


Watching



5. Films

Watch a film that you LOVE in English and change the language to French, this way your brain already knows the story, half the work is done! Watch with French subtitles NOT English. Then watch without subtitles. Subtitles switch off your listening especially if they're in English.



6. Series

Watch your favourite series in English and change the language to French. Series are better as they're shorter than a film. Do in the same way as for films.



7. Television

If you live in France, watch French TV. Watching English TV doesn't help you to learn French at all! France 5 and Arte have some really interesting programmes. With Television you can get a gist of the meaning by seeing the pictures



8. You Tube

Ahh the magic of You Tube! Watch videos on topics that you love -craft, gardening, DIY, fishing, travel, this way you can connect words to images. Try not to use subtitles but if you do, use the French ones. Like podcasts, you can watch you tube videos again and again, slow down the speed and pause.

Speaking

9. Meet Up



Meet Up is a fabulous socialising network where you can meet with others anywhere in the world and online about any subject. there are loads of French/English exchange groups on there. You can also find French groups on topics that you love to meet and talk with the French. <https://www.meetup.com/>

9. Community



If you live in France you have a community right on your doorstep! Try and mix with the French as much as possible, and they'll love it if you try and speak in French even a few words. Join an association, go to events held by the Mairie to meet people in your commune.

10. Pets!!



Speak to your pets in French! I know it sounds silly but it's a great way of practicing speaking without the fear of being judged! They'll love you anyway!

11. Games



Games are a fun way to use French. use simple games, Uno is perfect. Maybe a prepare a list of vocabulary needed first, such as "your turn", "you're out", so that you have some reference points. I learnt my numbers by playing Monopoly in French when I was a teenager. I can tell you it helped enormously!

Reading

16. Children's books



Children's books in French are good because the vocabulary is simple. Start with easy books (not Harry Potter!) and find your level. Even better if they have a CD with them for you to listen as you read. Leo et Popi is great and there are even videos of the books. You can find a video compilation of them [here](#)

17. Magazines



As with other items, choose magazines that are on topics that you like such as DIY or gardening. When you read an article, just go for the general feeling of it first, don't try and understand every word. You can also cut up the images, stick them in your notebook and write words connected to them such as vocabulary and verbs.

18. Articles



Going on from magazines, print articles from the internet that interest you (can be just a few paragraphs). When you read them, look for specific content such as verbs, prepositions or joining words, and highlight them, add them to your notebook.

19. Emails



Emails are a great resource of vocabulary, even the spam ones! Don't immediately press translate. Use the email to look at and note any new words and also the form of the email. Take time to read the interesting ones and save them, or screenshot them for later use.

20. And a few extra tips

1. Always bring fun into your French activities. Having fun is half the battle!
2. Say the time in French when you look at the clock
3. Read the number plate on the car in front - with the French alphabet
4. Don't automatically hit "translate" or go into Google translate; What good is that for your brain? Trust your brain to work things out. Remember, you couldn't translate when you learnt your mother tongue could you...?!
5. Make mistakes, that's how you learn.
6. The French LOVE our accents so don't be annoyed by it. We think the French accent is sexy and they feel the same about yours!

