

Why Learn French?



Join global conversations! An official national language in 29 countries on five continents, French is second only to English in geographic reach, and the only language other than English taught in almost every country. With some 220 million native speakers and more than 70 million students, partial speakers and dialect or Creole speakers, French will help you communicate in every corner of the globe.



Enhance your career! Hundreds of French and Canadian companies operate in the U.S. and most seek bilingual English-French speakers. In addition, French speakers have abundant opportunities to help multinationals, NGOs and non-profit organizations doing business throughout the Francophone world, especially in Africa, where French is an official language in 16 nations. French will help your résumé shine.



Make a difference! For anyone considering diplomacy or humanitarian work, a working knowledge of French, the official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières and a host of global NGOs, is practically *de rigueur*.



Strengthen your English! Since more than half of modern-day English vocabulary is derived from French, learning French will enhance your understanding of English. Think what that will do for your SAT scores!



Experience the arts through cultural diversity! French gives you direct access to art, theater, dance and music all over the world, from the Paris Photo Festival to the Dakar Fashion Week, from the Montreux Jazz fest in Switzerland to Winter Carnival in Québec. International hip-hop star MC Solaar of France and Sénégal and musician-songwriter Stromae of Belgium bring us complex lyricism and poetry from their European and African roots.



Dive into French and Francophone literature! French and francophone intellectuals have guided us in social change and philosophical theory, from Simone de Beauvoir's feminism to the poetry and social justice of Léopold Sédar Senghor. Skills in the French language will allow you to read and enjoy some of the greatest literature of all time in the original.



Be the chef! French rules in the kitchen if you're mastering classic techniques of the *soufflé* or *consommé* or trying the newest trend of *sous vide* cooking. French and francophone dishes like the *pain au chocolat* or Moroccan *tagine* are highly praised around the globe, and knowledge of French can help you discover a world of rich flavors. *Bon appétit!*



Be romantic! The dulcet sounds of French have long made this Romance language the favorite of poets and lovers. Have that *je ne sais quoi* with your sweetheart as you evoke, with Baudelaire, a world where 'tout n'est qu'ordre et beauté, luxe, calme et volupté' ("All is order and beauty, luxury, peace, and pleasure").



#LivetheLanguage

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