

Chapter 1

DAILY TOOLS

Chapter Check-In

- Reviewing numbers and time
- Using advanced time expressions
- Knowing cognates and French used in English
- Avoiding false friends

This chapter presents a review of the most basic daily tools: using numbers, telling time, and using cognates (words that are the same or similar in both French and English). It then goes on to more advanced applications of these essentials to allow you to communicate on a more sophisticated level. Additionally, “false friends” are identified to ensure that you don’t get confused by words that look like cognates, but aren’t. Also, an accent mark can be a clue to the meaning of a French word. In this chapter, you will learn tricks to help you determine the meaning of certain words containing an acute or circumflex accent.

Reviewing Numbers

The French *cardinal numbers*, those used for counting, require you to use math skills once you get past 69. The number 70 is formed by adding $60 + 10$, 71 is $60 + 11$, and so on until 80 is reached. The number 80 is 4×20 , while 81 is $4 \times 20 + 1$, and so on through the number 99.

Consult Table 1-1 for a list of French cardinal numbers that you should know.

Table 1-1 Cardinal Numbers

Number	French
0	<i>zéro</i>
1	<i>un</i>
2	<i>deux</i>
3	<i>trois</i>
4	<i>quatre</i>
5	<i>cinq</i>
6	<i>six</i>
7	<i>sept</i>
8	<i>huit</i>
9	<i>neuf</i>
10	<i>dix</i>
11	<i>onze</i>
12	<i>douze</i>
13	<i>treize</i>
14	<i>quatorze</i>
15	<i>quinze</i>
16	<i>seize</i>
17	<i>dix-sept</i>
18	<i>dix-huit</i>
19	<i>dix-neuf</i>
20	<i>vingt</i>
21	<i>vingt et un</i>
22	<i>vingt-deux</i>
30	<i>trente</i>
40	<i>quarante</i>
50	<i>cinquante</i>
60	<i>soixante</i>
70	<i>soixante-dix</i>
71	<i>soixante et onze</i>

Number	French
72	<i>soixante-douze</i>
80	<i>quatre-vingts</i>
81	<i>quatre-vingt-un</i>
90	<i>quatre-vingt-dix</i>
91	<i>quatre-vingt-onze</i>
100	<i>cent</i>
101	<i>cent un</i>
200	<i>deux cents</i>
201	<i>deux cent un</i>
1,000	<i>mille</i>
2,000	<i>deux mille</i>
1,000,000	<i>un million</i>
2,000,000	<i>deux millions</i>
1,000,000,000	<i>un milliard</i>
2,000,000,000	<i>deux milliards</i>

Note the following about cardinal numbers:

- **The conjunction *et* (and) is used only for the numbers 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71.** In all other compound numbers through 99, *et* is dropped and a hyphen is used.
 - vingt et un garçons* (21 boys)
 - vingt et une filles* (21 girls)
- **For *quatre-vingts* (80) and the plural of *cent* (100) for any number above 199, drop the *-s* before another number, but not before a noun. The *-s* is also dropped when these numbers are used in an ordinal sense (for example, to express page or address numbers and dates).**
 - quatre cent vingt dollars* (420 dollars)
 - quatre cents dollars* (400 dollars)
 - quatre-vingt-dix-neuf euros* (99 euros)

6 CliffsQuickReview French II

quatre-vingts euros (80 euros)

à la page deux cent (on page 200)

dans la rue quatre-vingt (on 80th Street)

pendant l'année neuf cent (during the year 900)

■ **Un is not used before *cent* (100) and *mille* (1,000).**

cent ans (100 years)

mille personnes (1,000 people)

■ **Mille doesn't take *-s* in the plural.**

cinq mille dollars (5,000 dollars)

■ **Mille is generally written *mil* in dates until 1999:**

Je suis né en mil neuf cent quarante-sept. (I was born in 1947.)

Starting with the year 2000, the date is written as follows:

Ma fille est née en (l'an) deux mille. (My daughter was born in 2000.) When another number is added after 2000, *mil* is generally preferred to *mille*.

Mon fils est né en (l'an) deux mil(le) deux. (My son was born in 2002.)

■ **To express numbers between 1,000 and 9,999, you can avoid using *mille* and simply use *cent* where it is more convenient.**

mille neuf cents or *dix-neuf cents* (1,900)

■ **In numerals and decimals, the French use commas where Americans use periods, and vice versa:**

<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>
50,000	50.000
.25	,25
\$25.99	\$25,99

Numbers and Nouns of Quantity

Nouns that are used to express a quantity or a measure are followed by *de* + noun. The cardinal numbers *million* and *milliard*, as well as other nouns of number, follow this rule.

un million de touristes (a million tourists)

onze milliards de gens (11 billion people)

deux boîtes de céréales (2 boxes of cereal)

un tas de papiers (a pile of papers)

Refer to Table 1-2 for common nouns of number and quantity.

Table 1-2 Numbers and Nouns of Quantity

<i>Noun of Quantity</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>une boîte de</i>	a box of, a can of
<i>une bouteille de</i>	a bottle of
<i>une centaine de</i>	about 100
<i>une dizaine de</i>	about 10
<i>une douzaine de</i>	a dozen
<i>un kilo de</i>	a kilogram of
<i>un litre de</i>	a liter of
<i>une livre de</i>	a pound of
<i>un milliard de</i>	a billion
<i>un millier de</i>	about a thousand
<i>un million de</i>	a million
<i>un morceau de</i>	a piece of
<i>une paire de</i>	a pair of
<i>un paquet de</i>	a package of
<i>une quinzaine de</i>	about 15
<i>un sac de</i>	a bag of
<i>un tas de</i>	a pile of
<i>une tasse de</i>	a cup of
<i>une tranche de</i>	a slice of
<i>un verre de</i>	a glass of
<i>une vingtaine de</i>	about 20


8 CliffsQuickReview French II

Arithmetic

To calculate simple arithmetic problems in French, use the following:

To add:	<i>Dix et (plus) cinq font (égale) quinze.</i>	$10 + 5 = 15$
To subtract:	<i>Quinze moins cinq font (égale) dix.</i>	$15 - 5 = 10$
To multiply:	<i>Cinq fois cinq font (égale) vingt-cinq.</i>	$5 \times 5 = 25$
To divide:	<i>Vingt-cinq divisé par cinq font (égale) cinq.</i>	$25 \div 5 = 5$

Ordinal Numbers

In French, most *ordinal numbers* (those used to show rank or placement) are formed by adding *-ième* to the cardinal number. When the cardinal number ends in a silent *e*, that vowel is dropped before adding the ordinal ending (*quatrième* is “fourth,” *onzième* is “eleventh,” and so on). Consult Table 1-3 for exceptions to the rule.

Table 1-3 Exception Ordinal Numbers

<i>Ordinal</i>	<i>French</i>
1st	<i>premier</i> or <i>première</i>
2nd	<i>deuxième</i> or <i>second(e)</i>
5th	<i>cinquième</i>
9th	<i>neuvième</i>
21st	<i>vingt et unième</i>

Note the following about ordinal numbers:

- **Premier and première are abbreviated as follows:**

premier: 1^{er}

première: 1^{re}

- **All others ordinals get a superscript *e*.**

quinzième: 15^e

- **Ordinal numbers agree in number and gender with the nouns they describe.** *Premier* (*première*) and *second* (*seconde*) are the only ordinal numbers that have a feminine form.

le premier acte (the first act)

la première pièce (the first play)

les premières années (the first years)

la Seconde Guerre mondiale (the second World War)

les vingt et unièmes anniversaires (21st birthdays)

- **Premier is used only for the first in a series.** For 21 to 71, *unième* is added after the conjunction *et* to express first, and it must agree in number with the noun it modifies.

la cinquante et unième année (the 51st year)

- **Second(e) is generally used in a series that goes no higher than two.**
- **Use *le* or *la* before *huit/huitième* and *onze/onzième*.** There is no elision.

le huitième anniversaire (the 11th birthday)

le onze juillet (July 11th)

- **In French, cardinal numbers precede ordinal numbers.**

les deux premières personnes (the first two people)

Fractions

Just as in English, French fractions are formed by combining a cardinal and an ordinal number:

<i>un cinquième</i>	$\frac{1}{5}$
<i>deux septièmes</i>	$\frac{2}{7}$
<i>trois huitièmes</i>	$\frac{3}{8}$
<i>quatre centièmes</i>	$\frac{4}{100}$

The most common fractions are irregular:

<i>un demi (une moitié)</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$
<i>un tiers</i>	$\frac{1}{3}$
<i>trois quarts</i>	$\frac{3}{4}$

10 CliffsQuickReview French II

Note the following:

- *Demi* is generally used as an adjective. When it is used before the noun with a hyphen, it does not agree with the noun it describes. When used after the noun, however, it must agree with the noun it modifies.

une demi-heure (a half hour)

une heure et demie (an hour and a half)

- *Moitié* is a feminine noun and must be used with the article *la*.

la moitié de la classe (half the class)

Multiples

Multiple numbers are used in French in the same way they are used in English:

<i>une fois</i>	one time
<i>vingt fois</i>	20 times
<i>mille fois</i>	1,000 times
<i>simple</i>	a single, simple
<i>double</i>	a double
<i>triple</i>	a triple

Here are some examples of multiples used in a sentence:

Je l'ai fait une fois. (I did it one time.)

Le prix est triple de ce qu'il était. (The price is triple what it was.)

Titles of Rulers

In numerical titles of rulers, cardinal numbers are used (except for *premier*).

<i>François premier (François Ier)</i>	François the First
<i>Henri Huit (Henri VIII)</i>	Henry the Eighth
<i>Louis Quinze (Louis XV)</i>	Louis the Fifteenth

Reviewing Time and Using Advanced Time Expressions

Use the following questions and answers to speak about the time of day:

Quelle heure est-il? (What time is it?) *Il est . . .* (It is . . .)
À quelle heure . . . ? (At what time . . .?) *À . . .* (At . . .)

Table 1-4 gives you a quick refresher course on how to tell time in French.

Table 1-4 Telling Time

Time	French
1:00	<i>une heure</i>
2:05	<i>deux heures cinq</i>
3:10	<i>trois heures dix</i>
4:15	<i>quatre heures et quart</i>
5:20	<i>cinq heures vingt</i>
6:25	<i>six heures vingt-cinq</i>
7:30	<i>sept heures et demie</i>
7:35	<i>huit heures moins vingt-cinq</i>
8:40	<i>neuf heures moins vingt</i>
9:45	<i>dix heures moins le quart</i>
10:50	<i>onze heures moins dix</i>
11:55	<i>midi (minuit) moins cinq</i>
midnight	<i>minuit</i>
noon	<i>midi</i>

Here are some more basics on time:

- To express time after the hour, the number of minutes is added. *Et* (and) is used only with *quart* (quarter) and *demi(e)* (half).
- *Moins* (less, minus) is used to express time before the hour.
- *Moins le* is used before *quart*.
- Because *midi* (noon) and *minuit* (midnight) are masculine, to say “half past,” use *et demi*, as in the following: *Je mange à midi et demi.* (I eat at half past noon.)


12 CliffsQuickReview French II

- In public announcements, such as timetables, the official 24-hour system is commonly used, with midnight as the zero hour:

0 h 30 (12:30 a.m.)

18 heures (6:00 p.m.)

20 h 45 (8:45 p.m.)

Table 1-5 provides you with common expressions that will help you express time and anything related to it.

Table 1-5 Common Time-Related Expressions

French	English
<i>une seconde</i>	a second
<i>une minute</i>	a minute
<i>un quart d'heure</i>	a quarter of an hour
<i>une demi-heure</i>	a half hour
<i>une heure</i>	an hour
<i>il y a une heure</i>	an hour ago
<i>du matin</i>	in the morning
<i>de l'après-midi</i>	in the afternoon
<i>du soir</i>	in the evening
<i>à minuit précis</i>	at exactly midnight
<i>à une heure précise</i>	at exactly 1 o'clock
<i>à trois heures précises</i>	at exactly 3 o'clock
<i>vers . . .</i>	at about . . .
<i>dans une heure</i>	in an hour
<i>jusqu'à . . .</i>	until . . .
<i>avant . . .</i>	before . . .
<i>après</i>	after
<i>depuis . . .</i>	since . . .
<i>par heure</i>	per hour
<i>au bout d'une heure</i>	at the end of an hour
<i>tôt, de bonne heure</i>	early

French	English
<i>tard</i>	late (in time)
<i>en retard</i>	late (in arriving)
<i>à l'heure, à temps</i>	on time
<i>en même temps</i>	at the same time
<i>tout à l'heure</i>	in a while

Using Advanced Cognates

Cognates help you improve your command of a foreign language because they help you relate words with which you are familiar to the new words that you come across in your studies. Although there are differences in pronunciation and spelling, easily recognizable words help you build a working vocabulary rather quickly. The cognates listed in Table 1-6 should be easy to understand.

Table 1-6 Advanced Cognates

Adjectives	Le	La	L'
<i>actif</i>	<i>balcon</i>	<i>banane</i>	<i>acteur</i>
<i>aimable</i>	<i>bébé</i>	<i>bicyclette</i>	<i>adresse</i>
<i>ambitieux</i>	<i>coton</i>	<i>carotte</i>	<i>affaire</i>
<i>amusant</i>	<i>dîner</i>	<i>cathédrale</i>	<i>âge</i>
<i>ancien</i>	<i>directeur</i>	<i>chambre</i>	<i>agence</i>
<i>courageux</i>	<i>jardin</i>	<i>classe</i>	<i>anniversaire</i>
<i>délicieux</i>	<i>juge</i>	<i>couleur</i>	<i>appartement</i>
<i>dynamique</i>	<i>mécanicien</i>	<i>danse</i>	<i>artiste</i>
<i>élégant</i>	<i>moteur</i>	<i>fontaine</i>	<i>éléphant</i>
<i>enchanté</i>	<i>papier</i>	<i>guitare</i>	<i>employé</i>
<i>exquis</i>	<i>parfum</i>	<i>lampe</i>	<i>enveloppe</i>
<i>fatigué</i>	<i>parc</i>	<i>liste</i>	<i>exemple</i>
<i>grillé</i>	<i>porc</i>	<i>maladie</i>	<i>hôtel</i>
<i>insignifiant</i>	<i>président</i>	<i>marchandise</i>	<i>océan</i>

(continued)


14 CliffsQuickReview French II
Table 1-6 (continued)

Adjectives	Le	La	L'
<i>intéressant</i>	<i>professeur</i>	<i>musique</i>	<i>oncle</i>
<i>juste</i>	<i>serveur</i>	<i>nationalité</i>	<i>opéra</i>
<i>naïf</i>	<i>théâtre</i>	<i>paire</i>	<i>opticien</i>
<i>sérieux</i>	<i>vendeur</i>	<i>région</i>	<i>orchestre</i>

The meanings of the following regular verbs should be apparent. Just follow the rules for the conjugation of the appropriate verb families to use these words.

-er verbs*accompagner**adorer**aider**blâmer**changer**chanter**commander**commencer**danser**décider**déclarer**demander**désirer**dîner**échanger**embrasser**entrer**envelopper**hésiter**ignorer**inviter**marcher**modifier**observer**pardonner**passer**payer**persuader**porter**préférer**préparer**présenter**prouver**recommander**refuser**regarder**regretter**remarquer**réparer**réserver**signer**surveiller**tourner**vérifier*

-ir verbs*accomplir**finir**applaudir**punir**défendre**répondre**dépendre**vendre***Tackling What We've Borrowed**

There are many French words and expressions that are used daily by speakers of English. These terms have been borrowed and incorporated into our language. Check the list below and see how many of these words are, indeed, quite familiar to you.

- *à la carte*
- *à la mode*
- *aide-de-camp*
- *blasé*
- *bon vivant*
- *bon voyage*
- *c'est la vie*
- *camouflage*
- *carte blanche*
- *chaise longue*
- *chef d'oeuvre*
- *chic*
- *coup de grâce*
- *coup d'état*
- *crème de la crème*
- *cri de coeur*
- *de rigueur*
- *débutante*
- *déjà vu*

**16 CliffsQuickReview French II**

- *élite*
- *esprit de corps*
- *fait accompli*
- *faux pas*
- *fiancé(e)*
- *gourmet*
- *idée fixe*
- *joie de vivre*
- *matinée*
- *naïve*
- *objet d'art*
- *par excellence*
- *pièce de résistance*
- *R.S.V.P.*
- *raison d'être*
- *rendez-vous*
- *tête à tête*
- *tour de force*
- *trompe-l'oeil*
- *vis-à-vis*

Being Aware of Advanced False Friends

Faux amis, or false friends, can trick you into making mistakes because they look like certain English words, but have an entirely different meaning in French. In many instances, despite having the same or similar spellings, the words in English and French can even be different parts of speech. Beware of the tricky *faux amis* in Table 1-7.

(The part of speech is indicated by “n” [noun], “pron” [pronoun], “v” [verb], “adv” [adverb], “a” [adjective], “conj” [conjunction], or “prep” [preposition].)

Table 1-7 Advanced False Friends

English	French	Meaning
bless (v)	<i>bless</i> (v)	to wound
bra (n)	<i>le bras</i> (n)	arm
bride (n)	<i>la bride</i> (n)	bridle
car (n)	<i>car</i> (conj)	because
chair (n)	<i>la chair</i> (n)	skin
chose (v)	<i>la chose</i> (n)	thing
cry (v)	<i>crier</i> (v)	to shout
fond (a)	<i>le fond</i> (n)	back, bottom
four (a)	<i>le four</i> (n)	oven
laid (v)	<i>laid</i> (a)	ugly
large (a)	<i>large</i> (a)	wide
lime (n)	<i>la lime</i> (n)	file
lit (v)	<i>le lit</i> (n)	bed
liver (n)	<i>le livre</i> (n)	book
main (a)	<i>la main</i> (n)	hand
manger (n)	<i>manger</i> (v)	to eat
ours (a)	<i>l'ours</i> (n)	bear
pour (v)	<i>pour</i> (prep)	for, in order to
prune (n)	<i>la prune</i> (n)	plum
raisin (n)	<i>le raisin</i> (n)	grape
ranger (n)	<i>ranger</i> (v)	to tidy
Roman (a)	<i>le roman</i> (n)	novel
sang (v)	<i>le sang</i> (n)	blood
sensible (a)	<i>sensible</i> (a)	sensitive
sent (v)	<i>sentir</i> (v)	to smell, to feel
sold (v)	<i>le solde</i> (n)	sale
son (n)	<i>son</i> (pron) OR (n)	his, her OR sound
stage (n)	<i>le stage</i> (n)	training course

(continued)


18 CliffsQuickReview French II
Table 1-7 (continued)

English	French	Meaning
store (n)	<i>le store</i> (n)	shade
ton (n)	<i>ton</i> (pron)	your
tot (n)	<i>tôt</i> (adv)	early

Figuring Out Meanings

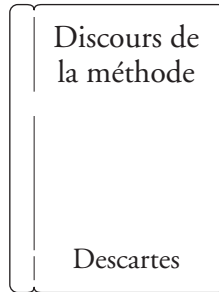
A circumflex accent (^) or the acute accent on *é* generally take the place of an *-s* that appeared in the word in old French. This clue will make it easier for you to determine the meaning of many words and perhaps avoid the use of a dictionary. Fill in the definitions of the words that are left.

Circumflex Accent (^)		Accent Aigu é	
French	English	French	English
<i>arrêter</i>	to arrest	<i>écarlate</i>	scarlet
<i>bête</i>	beast	<i>échapper</i>	to escape
<i>conquête</i>	conquest	<i>école</i>	school
<i>coûter</i>	to cost	<i>épars</i>	sparse
<i>croûte</i>	crust	<i>épellation</i>	spelling
<i>fête</i>	feast	<i>épice</i>	spice
<i>forêt</i>	forest	<i>épier</i>	to spy
<i>hôpital</i>	hospital	<i>éponge</i>	sponge
<i>hôte</i>	host	<i>épouser</i>	to espouse
<i>hôtel</i>	hostel	<i>établir</i>	
<i>hôtesse</i>		<i>étal</i>	
<i>île</i>		<i>état</i>	
<i>intérêt</i>		<i>étrange</i>	
<i>pâte</i>		<i>étranger</i>	
<i>plâtre</i>		<i>étude</i>	
<i>quête</i>		<i>étudiant</i>	
<i>rôti</i>		<i>étudier</i>	
<i>vêtements</i>		<i>répondre</i>	

Chapter Checkout

Using your knowledge of cognates, give a good English title for each of these famous French works.

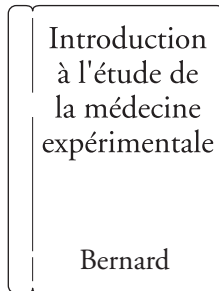
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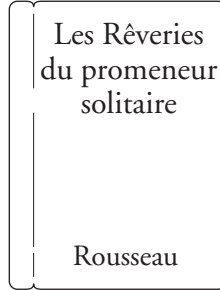


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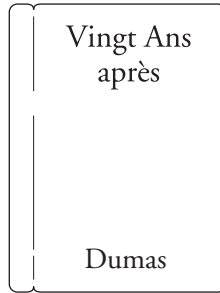


20 CliffsQuickReview *French II*

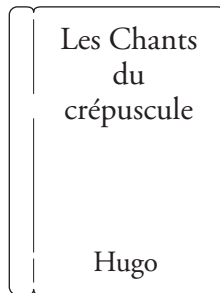
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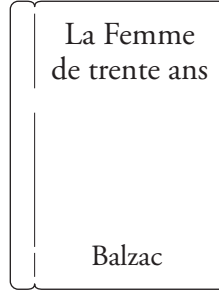
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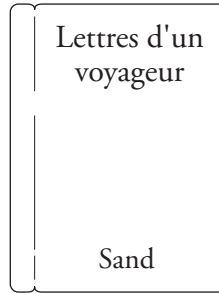
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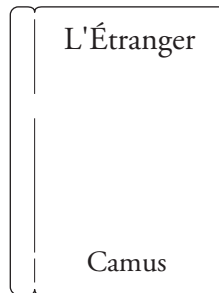
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9.



22 CliffsQuickReview *French II*

10.



Answers:

1. Discourse of the Method
2. The Hypochondriac
3. Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine
4. Daydreams of a Solitary Walker
5. Twenty Years After
6. Songs of Twilight
7. The 30-Year-Old Woman
8. Letters of a Traveler
9. The Stranger
10. The Little Prince