

Learning to speak French

The natural way

- No grammar**
- No exercises**
- No questions**
- No puzzles**
- No cartoons**

CATTAI SCHOOL OF AART

Learning to speak French

The natural way

1.

- **No grammar**
- **No exercises**
- **No questions**
- **No puzzles**
- **No cartoons**

CATTAI SCHOOL OF AART

FOREWORD

- Contrary to all other language books, **this one has no exercises and questions so you can't make mistakes; you can only forget!**
- One can now learn scholastic French in 3 years- instead of in 6.
- Script is the mirror image of speech. The word order in a sentence depends on the fluency it can be pronounced, so often the one in French is different from the one in English. Copying what you see makes the learning of rules unnecessary:

La viande Il me la donne –he gives it to me.

Le fromage Il me le donne –he gives it to me.

Pronounced as one word!

- Language is learnt by good examples; that's how French children learn to speak and write.

Learning French needs awareness of how words are pronounced and a good memory. Unfortunately, the many reminders and beeps are fast diminishing the skill to memorise. Fortunately, this can be improved to an amazing degree by adopting the Principles of Professional Memory Training. Exercises may be found in my “Creative Writing.”

Professional Memory Training

- **Visualising the English** translation first is unique. Do it several times so that you become familiar with the vocabulary used in the notes.

- **Visualising** the translation means **seeing** it as a movie and **hearing** in your mind what the actors **say**!
- After memorising the English story, familiarise yourself with the pronunciation symbols.
A good dictionary gives them for each word.
- Then it's time to listen to the French story being read (YouTube with earphones).
- Most words, phrases, expressions and sentences in the story appear in the notes.

Studying the notes: Say & memorise the French; just looking is not enough. Learn a couple of words or sentences in a 30 - minute session. During the rest of the day, repeat them mentally

while doing other chores including driving. Eventually, it should be possible to mentally translate the whole English story into French! This unique procedure will enable you to then say in French what you have stored in your mind.

- The French story (above elementary level) is actually a summary of the notes. Therefore, to read it comfortably, you should spend quite some time on them. Then “all you have to do” is string the bits and pieces together. That can only happen when they regularly fill your mind. Success depends on your study efficiency.

Remember : festina lente (less haste, more speed).

PRONUNCIATION SYMBOLS

- **The natural way** is the way French parents teach their children; from the simple to the more complex. For that reason, introductory lessons – the notes – consist of small, easy to remember units taken from the story.
- These units appear under the following headings:
 - **Nouns & Adjectives:** masculine and feminine
 - **Verbs:** each person has its own form, so they are usually presented in groups of six to get you used to the regular – and irregular patterns. They are to be used as a reference only.
 - **Verbs & Adverbs**

- **Sentences, expressions & phrases**

Personal pronouns are in colour to indicate their position (**before or after the verb**) and their sequence, if there are two:

Elle les lui donne (pronounced as one word)

She gives **them to him**

The bold sections are to be memorised as a whole

without consulting a grammar book!

LESSON 1

NOTES

- In this unique book, the **notes precede** the lesson! Fortunately, they only refer to it. This technical preparation will facilitate memorising the French text.

- **The translation above the text** makes the use of a vocabulary unnecessary.

Masculine nouns, adjectives and pronouns:

Red letters are not pronounced

I prefer to use the guttural R(at the back of the throat like gurgling); you may use the English one.

Liaison: pronouncing two or more words as one; s sounds z: les enfants(lizenfan), ses enfants(sizenfan)

Making the nasal sound needs quite a bit of practise; start by squeezing your nose!

Le jardin (the garden), **son jardin** (his garden), **au jardin** (in the garden), **votre jardin** (your garden), **son beau jardin** (his beautiful garden), **mon pauvre jardin** (my poor garden), **l'enfant** (the child), **les enfants** (the

children), **ses enfants** (his children),
le buisson (the bush), **les buissons** (the
bushes), **des buissons** (bushes), **le printemps**
(the spring), **l'été** (the summer), **en été** (in
summer), **le rosier** (the rose-bush), **les rosiers**
(the rose-bushes), **le soir** (the evening),
un grand bruit (a loud noise), **quel tapage!**
(what a row!), **le chien** (the dog), **les chiens**
(the dogs), **des chiens** (dogs), **ces chiens-là**
(those dogs), **le trou** (the hole), **les trous** (the
holes), **des trous** (holes), **de grands trous** (big
holes), **un os** (a bone), **leurs os** (their bones),
des os (bones), **un champ** (a field),
cher M. Toulouse (dear Mr Toulouse),
l'oreiller (the pillow), **son oreiller** (his pillow),
le matin (the morning), **le journal** (the
newspaper), **son journal** (his newspaper),
les journaux (the newspapers),
le petit déjeuner (breakfast),
mon Dieu (my God), **mes chers buissons** (my

dear bushes), **ces misérables chiens** (these wretched dogs), **l'arbre** (the tree), **les arbres** (the trees), **des arbres** (trees): [dizarbre]

Feminine nouns, adjectives & pronouns

la femme (the woman), **sa femme** (his wife), **une femme** (a woman),
les plates-bandes (the flower-beds),
la fleur (the flower), **une fleur** (a flower),
les fleurs (the flowers), **des fleurs** (flowers),
il n'y a pas de fleurs (there are no flowers),
les jolies fleurs (the pretty flowers),
la pelouse (the lawn), **les pelouses vertes**
(the green lawns), **les mauvaises herbes**
(the weeds), **la rose** (the rose), **les roses**
(the roses), **des roses** (roses),
les belles roses (the beautiful roses),
une longue journée (a long day),
une journée agréable (a pleasant day),

cette ruine (this ruin),
mes fleurs précieuses (my precious
flowers), **une allée** (a garden path).

Summary

- **Le** jardin (the garden), **les** jardins (the gardens), **des** jardins (gardens), **du** jardin (of the garden), **du** fromage (cheese), **pas de** jardin (no garden), **il n'y a pas de** jardins (there are no gardens), **un** jardin (a garden), un joli jardin (a pretty garden), **son** jardin précieux (his precious garden), il est heureux (he is happy).
- Elle est heureuse (she is happy) **la** rose (the rose), **les** roses (the roses), **des** roses (roses), **pas de** rose (no rose), **il n'y a pas de** roses (there are no roses), **une** rose (a rose), **une** jolie rose (a

pretty rose), **une** rose précieuse (a precious rose), **ses** roses précieuses (his precious roses), **de la** viande (meat).

- **Adverbs** qualify verbs:

Il dort **tranquillement** (he sleeps peacefully)

Il ronfle **doucement** (he snores softly)

- **Adjectives** are masculine or feminine according to the nouns they qualify.

They are usually placed **after** the noun.

Les pelouses **vertes** (the green lawns),

une voiture **Américaine** (an American

car), une journée **agréable** (a pleasant

day), une lettre **intéressante** (an

interesting letter), un oreiller

confortable (a comfortable pillow), mes

fleurs **précieuses** (my precious flowers),

mon jardin **précieux** (my precious

garden), un garçon **heureux** (a happy

boy), une fille **heureuse** (a happy girl), la

main **droite** (the right hand), la main

gauche (the left hand), une femme **intelligente** (an intelligent woman), un homme **intelligent** (an intelligent man), un homme **aimable** (a pleasant man), le garçon **poli** (the polite waiter), un homme **pauvre** (a poor man: no money), une table **ronde** (a round table).

- **The following adjectives** are almost always placed **before** the the noun:

Bon(good), **mauvais**(bad), **joli**(pretty), **villain**(nasty), **jeune**(young), **vieux**, **vieille**(old), **grand**(big), **gros**(stout), **petit**(small), **long**(long), **une longue journée**(a long day), **court**(short), **le premier janvier**(the first of January), **la première leçon**(the first lesson), **l'autre jour**(the other day), **chaque jour**(every day).

In the story they express a sentimental value:

Cette ruine(this ruin), **les belles roses**(the beautiful roses), **mes jolies fleurs**(my pretty flowers), **mes pauvres fleurs**(my poor flowers), **mes cher buissons**(my dear bushes), **ces misérables chiens**(these wretched dogs), **mon pauvre jardin**(my poor garden).

- **Past particles** behave like **adjectives**:

Marie est partie à midi(Mary left at midday), **étonné, il regarde son beau jardin**(stunned, he looks at his beautiful garden), **étonnée, sa femme regarde cette ruine** (stunned, his wife looks at this ruin), **cette dame est admirée de tout le monde**(this lady is admired by everyone), **voici la plume que j'ai achetée**(here is the pen I bought), **elles se sont assises**(they sat down).

Note: **reflexive verbs** are **conjugated with être**(to be):

Voici les lettres écrites par moi(here are the

letters written by me), **la pauvre femme est tombée**(the poor woman fell), **ils sont partis ce matin**(they left this morning), **les chiens sont morts de faim**(de dogs died of starvation), **mes pelouses sont gâtées**(my lawns are damaged).

The Auxiliary verbs

avoir (to have)

être (to be)

present	past	present	past
j'ai	j'avais	je suis	j'étais
tu as	tu avais	tu es	tu étais
il a	il avait	il est	il était
nous avons	nous avions	nous sommes	nous étions
vous avez	vous aviez	vous êtes	vous étiez
ils ont	ils avaient	ils sont	ils étaient

Verbs: Regular & Irregular

They end in er-ir-re-oir

Each personal pronoun has its own form, so verbs are presented in groups of six. Our brain is a pattern making and a pattern using system(Edward de Bono), so it's better to print the prototypes of the regular ones in groups. Irregular groups are given when needed and to be used as a reference only. They are also mentioned in Harrap's shorter French-and English dictionary.

Tu is used for friends. **Vous** is used for one person or a whole group.

Regular verbs in story 1: present tense

aimer	finir	tondre	se coucher	mettre
to love	to finish	to mow	to go to bed	to put
j'aime	finis	tonds	je me couche	mets
aimes	finis	tonds	tu te couches	mets
aime	finit	tond	il se couche	met
aimons	finissons	tondons	nous nous couchons	mettons
aimez	finissez	tondez	vous vous couchez	mettez
aiment	finissent	tondent	ils se couchent	mettent

voir	enlever	aboyer	ouvrir	entendre
to see	to take away	to bark	to open	to hear
vois	j'enlève	le chien aboie	j'ouvre	j'entends
vois	enlèves	les chiens aboient	ouvres	entends
voit	enlève		ouvre	entend

voyons	enlevons		ouvrons	entendons
voyez	enlevez		ouvrez	entendez
voient	enlèvent		ouvrent	entendent

Irregular verbs in story 1

cueillir	courir	dormir	sortir	aller
to pick	to run	to sleep	to go out	to go
cueille	cours	dors	sors	vais
cueilles	cours	dors	sors	vas
cueille	court	dort	sort	va
cueillons	courons	dormons	sortons	allons
cueillez	courez	dormez	sortez	allez
cueillent	courent	dorment	sortent	vont

s'asseoir	boire	connaître	croire	devoir
to sit down	to drink	to know	to believe	to have to
je m'assieds	bois	connais	crois	dois

tu t'assieds	bois	connais	crois	dois
il s'assied	boit	connait	croit	doit
nous nous asseyons	buvons	connaissons	croyons	devons
vous vous asseyez	buvez	connaissez	croyez	devez
Il s'asseyent	boivent	connaissent	croient	doivent

envoyer	envoyer	envoyer	avoir
to send	to send	to send	to have
present	perfect	future	compare
j'envoie	j'ai envoyé	j'enverrai	j'ai
envoies	tu as envoyé	enverras	tu as
envoie	il a envoyé	enverra	il a
envoyons	nous avons...	enverrons	nous avons
envoyez	vous avez...	enverrez	vous avez
envoient	ils ont...	enverront	ils ont

Negative: je ne dors pas (I don't sleep)

Je n'ai pas dormi (I didn't sleep)

Interrogative: est – ce que j'ai dormi? (did I sleep)

Or: ai – je dormi?

penser	penser	rêver	dormir	dormir
to think	to think	to dream	to sleep	to sleep
imperfect	perfect	imperfect	perfect	future
I thought...	I thought...	I dreamt...	I slept...	I shall sleep...
pensais	j'ai pensé	rêvais	j'ai dormi	dormirai
pensais	tu as pensé	rêvais	tu as dormi	dormiras
pensait	il a pensé	rêvait	il a dormi	dormira
pensions	nous avons...	rêvions	nous avons...	dormirons
pensiez	vous avez...	rêviez	vous avez...	dormirez
pensaient	ils ont...	rêvaient	ils ont...	dormiront

1. **Perfect tense**(used in conversations): an action indicating a moment in the past.

2. **Imperfect tense**: a past action that goes on indefinitely.

J'ai pensé que je rêvais

(I thought that I was dreaming)

Imperative

This tense is used to give orders.

There are 3 forms: the present tense for

Je – nous – vous

Note: the French word order is the same as the English one

Give me a kiss

- Je donne: Donne – moi un baiser

Give it to me

- Je rends: Rends – le – moi!

Sit down

- Je m'assieds: Assieds - toi!

Sit down

Vous vous asseyez: Asseyez – vous!

Let us go to the beach

- Nous allons: Allons à la plage
- Aller (irregular): to go

vais, vas, **il va**, allons, allez, vont
va à l'école! (go to school)

Vais is not strong enough to give an order

Allons à l'école (Let's go to school)

First lesson

Lesson one

Première leçon

Leçon un

The dream of Mr

Toulouse

Le rêve de Monsieur Toulouse

- I've translated the French story; you only translate the English one. This is an oral activity; after all, you want to learn to speak French!

Sometimes, a translation is not a word for word one: only the meaning is translated; just memorise the French (the bold expressions). If you translate the French words, you'll see what I mean.

Il lève les yeux (he looks up), **sous peu** (before long), **il fait du vent** (**it's** windy),

il fait chaud(it **is** hot), **il fait froid**(it **is** cold), **j'ai faim**(I **am** hungry), **j'ai soif**(I **am** thirsty), **s'il vous plaît**(please), **elle désire rentrer chez elle**(she wishes to be back home), **je m'appelle**(my name is), **il donne un coup de téléphone à**(he rings), **un coup de poing**(a punch), **un œil poché**(a black eye), **nous allons à la pêche**(we're going fishing), **canne à pêche**(fishing rod).

- The numbered sentences will facilitate memorising the **bold** expressions.
- The English translation **above** the French text is unique.

Mr. Toulouse loves his garden as he

1.M. Toulouse aime son jardin comme il
loves his wife and his children
aime sa femme et ses enfants.

All the week-ends he waters the

2.Tous les week-ends, il arrose les
flower-beds and the bushes
plates-bandes et les buissons.

He picks the pretty flowers mows the

3.Il cueille les jolies fleurs, tond les
green lawns and removes the weeds

pelouses vertes et enlève les mauvaises herbes.

In spring and in summer it is very

4. Au printemps et en été, c'est très
pretty when the trees bear their flowers
joli quand les arbres portent leurs fleurs.

And when the beautiful roses are on the

5. Et quand les belles roses sont sur les
rose-bushes
rosiers.

Mr. Toulouse is very proud of his garden

6. M. Toulouse est très fier de son jardin.

Sunday evening when Mr Toulouse goes

7. Dimanche soir, quand M. Toulouse se
to bed after a long pleasant day
couche après **une longue journée agréable**
in the garden
au jardin.

He is very tired and before long he sleeps

8. Il est très fatigué et sous peu il dort
peacefully
tranquillement.

Suddenly it seems to him that he hears a

9. Soudain, il lui semble qu'il entend un
loud noise what a din
grand bruit! Quel tapage!

Dogs bark everywhere

10.Des chiens aboient partout.

They run on his paths on the

11.Ils courent sur ses allées, sur les

lawns amongst the rose bushes

pelouses, parmi les rosiers.

He hears them dig big holes

12.Il les entend creuser de grands trous

in his flower-beds to bury their

dans ses plates-bandes pour enterrer leurs

bones

os.

His garden resembles

13.Son jardin ressemble à

a battle-field

un champ de bataille.

No dear Mr Toulouse

14.Non, cher M.Toulouse,

there are no dogs in your garden

il n'y a pas de chiens dans votre jardin.

Go to sleep

Endormez-vous!

Mr Toulouse puts **his** head upon his

15.M.Toulouse met **la tête sur **son****

pillow comfortable and soon he is snoring

oreiller confortable et bientôt il ronfle

gently

doucement.

The following morning in slippers and
16.Le lendemain matin, en pantoufles et
in dressing gown he goes out
en robe de chambre, il sort
to bring back his newspaper before
pour rapporter son journal avant
breakfast
le petit déjeuner.

Surprised he watches his beautiful garden
17.Etonné, il regarde son beau jardin.

What does he see everywhere bones
18.Q'u est-ce qu'il voit partout- des os!

Oh my God exclaims Mr Toulouse

19. Oh, mon Dieu! s'écrie M. Toulouse.

My poor garden my lawns are

20. Mon pauvre jardin! **Mes** pelouses sont
spoilt
gâtées.

My poor flowers my dear bushes

21. Mes pauvres fleurs! **Mes** chers buissons!

Those dogs are the cause of this ruin

22. Ces chiens-là sont la cause de **cette** ruine!

I thought, that I was dreaming when

23.J'ai pensé que je rêvais quand
these wretched dogs enjoyed themselves
ces misérables chiens s'amusaient
among my precious flowers
parmi mes fleurs précieuses!

And into the bargain it's Monday today

24.Et en plus **c'est aujourd'hui lundi!**

Learning to speak French

The natural way

2.

- No grammar**
- No exercises**
- No questions**
- No puzzles**
- No cartoons**

CATTAI SCHOOL OF AART

Second lesson

Deuxième leçon

Lesson 2

Leçon deux

Notes

Remember to say and memorise the French.

- **Masculine nouns & adjectives:**

Le perroquet favori de ton neveu(the favourite parrot of your nephew), **cet oiseau**(this bird), **quelques paragraphes** (some paragraphs), **sous un arbre**(under a tree), **le joli oiseau vert et rouge**(the pretty green and red bird), **tous les matins**(every morning), **son perroquet**(his parrot), **un petit baiser**(a little kiss), **un gros baiser**(a big kiss), **son joyeux petit ami**(his merry little friend), **hier matin**(yesterday morning), **l'heure du déjeuner**(lunch time), **dans les arbres voisins**(in the neighbouring trees), **un**

petit morceaux de pâté de lapin(a small piece of rabbit pie), **pas de perroquet**(no parrot), **il est très fatigué**(he is very tired), **le petit ami de mon fils**(the little friend of my son), **un œil fripon**(a mischievous eye), **un garçon heureux**(a happy boy).

- **Feminine nouns & adjectives:**

Sa sœur en Australie(her sister in Australia), **sa longue lettre intéressante**(her long, interesting letter), **une grande cage**(a big cage), **près de la maison**(near the house), **de l'eau fraîche**(fresh water), **la porte de la cage**(the door of the cage), **l'école**(the school), **la porte ouverte**(the open door), **notre arrière cour**(our back yard), **dans la rue**(in the street), **sa bonne soupe**(his nice soup), **une petite caisse**(a little case), **quelle surprise merveilleuse**(what a marvellous surprise), **la palissade**(the

fence), **ses plumes sont mouillées**(his feathers are damp), **son épaule**(his shoulder), **quatre heures et demie**(half past 4), **une femme heureuse**(a happy woman), **une vieille femme**(an old woman).

- **Verbs & adverbs:**

Il ferme soigneusement la porte(he carefully closes the door), **il a oublié de fermer solidement** la porte de la cage(he forgot to securely close the door of the cage), **il est allé directement** à la cage(he went directly to the cage), **il s'est assis tristement** sur une petite caisse(he sadly sat down on a small case).

- **The perfect tense** is used for past actions that only last a moment (conversational language). **Est-ce que je t'ai parlé du perroquet**(did I tell you about the parrot...), **il a été un peu en retard pour**

l'école(he was a bit late for school), **il a oublié**(he forgot), **il est rentré**(he came back), **il est sorti**(he left), **il a trouvé**(he found), **il a cherché**(he searched), **il n'a pas trouvé**(he didn't find), **il n'a pas voulu**(he didn't want), **il a eu seulement**(he only had), **il est retourné à l'école**(he went back to school), **il est allé**(he went), **il s'est assis**(he sat down).

- **The imperfect tense** is used for continuous past actions: **il écrivait une lettre**(he was writing a letter)
- **A combination: j'al pensé que je rêvais**(I thought that I was dreaming)
- **Vouloir**(to want), voulant(wanting), voulu(wanted). Present: veux, veux, veut, voulons, voulez, veulent.
- **Agreement of the past participle:** Intransitive verbs have no object: they are conjugated with to be(**être**).

Examples: **Il est rentré**(he **re-entered**), **il est sorti**(he **left**), **il est retourné**(he **returned**), **il est allé**(he **went**), **elle est rentrée**(she **came back**), **elle est allée**(she **went**), **elle est sortie**(she **left**)

- **Reflexive verbs** also use **être**:

il s'est couché(he went to bed), je me couche, tu te couches, il se couche, nous nous couchons, vous vous couchez, ils se couchent. **S'appeler**: je m'appelle (I am called, my name is), **s'asseoir**(to sit down), Georges s'est assis(George sat down), je m'assieds, tu t'assieds, il s'assied, nous nous asseyons, vous vous asseyez, ils s'asseient.

- **Expressions, paragraphs, sentences:**

elle écrit à sa sœur(she writes to her sister), **voici**(here are), **est-ce que je t'ai parlé**(did I tell you), **il s'appelle**(his name is), **appeler**(to call), **il demeure**(he lives),

il aime aussi(he also loves), **il donne à l'oiseau**(he gives the bird), **il lui rend**(he gives **him** back), **donne à boire**(give something to drink), **donne-moi**(give me), **il ferme**(he closes), **il ne veut pas perdre**(he doesn't want to lose), **il a été un peu en retard pour l'école**(he was a bit late for school), **il a oublié**(he forgot), **quand il est rentré**(when he came back), **il est sorti**(he went out), **il a trouvé**(he found), **pour parler**(to talk), **le perroquet n'est plus là**(the parrot isn't there anymore), **il a cherché**(he searched), **il n'a pas trouvé**(he did not find), **il n'a pas voulu**(he didn't want), **il a eu**(he had), **il est retourné à l'école**(he went back to school), **il est allé**(he went), **la cage reste vide**(the cage remains empty), **il s'est assis**(he sat down), **et perche sur son épaule**(and perches on his shoulder), **il a**

soif(he **is** thirsty), **il a faim**(he **is** hungry),
il vole(he flies), **voler**(to fly), **et sautiller**
dedans(and hop inside), **il gratte**
(he scratches), **clignant**(winking),
il lui dit(he says **to him**).

Second lesson

lesson two

Deuxième leçon

leçon deux

Remember to say and memorise the bold sections.

The lost parrot

La perroquet perdu

Mrs Toulouse writes to her sister in

1.Mme Toulouse écrit à sa sœur en

Australia

Australie.

Here are some paragraphs of her

2.Voici quelques paragraphes de sa

long interesting letter

longue lettre intéressante:

Did I tell you about the

3.Est-ce que je t'ai parlé du

favourite parrot of your nephew

perroquet favori de ton neveu?

This bird is called Polly

4.Cet oiseau s'appelle Jacquot.

He lives in a big cage under

5.Il demeure dans une grande cage sous

a tree near the house

un arbre près de la maison.

George loves Polly and the pretty
6. Georges aime Jacquot et le joli oiseau
green and red bird loves **him** also
vert et rouge l'aime aussi.

Every morning George gives his
7. Tous les matins, Georges donne à son
parrot bird-seed and fresh water
perroquet du millet et de l'eau fraîche.