

Learning French Tout Seul

Hannah Zeiler takes a look at some of the latest products for French learners

So you want to learn the language of love but your schedule is just too packed to fit in a language class. Fortunately for you, there are some great products for French learners which provide all you need to learn French quickly, efficiently, and at your own pace:

Barron's French-English Dictionary is a comprehensive bilingual dictionary that presents 100,000 entries in two sections, English to French and French to English. Every headword is printed in color, and then followed up in black type with the word's translation, part of speech, a pronunciation key, and an example phrase. The book's additional and extensive bilingual lists cover numerals, phonetics symbols, abbreviations, and geographical names. Other features include full-color atlas-style maps, concise grammar guides in French and English, and regular verb conjugation lists. Both language students and travelers will value this book's unusual special feature — a free downloadable electronic French-English dictionary that is compatible with all PCs, and most PDAs and Smartphones. Barron's French-English Dictionary is an ideal reference book for schools, libraries, business offices, and every home bookshelf. Yet its reasonable price and manageable size also make it a practical learning tool for students of French and international travelers.

If you're looking for a fun, effective way to practice and perfect your French, the Berlitz Basic French Workbook is perfect for you. Designed as supplementary material for language study, the workbook features 24 fast-paced units and exercises that will help improve grammar and vocabulary. It also includes a final test section with a complete answer key to help students increase proficiency and

confidence. Supported by a complete reference section that includes an answer key, grammar tables, and a 2,400 word bilingual glossary, the Berlitz Basic French Workbook is an ideal learning tool.

Berlitz Essential French is a comprehensive study guide that allows beginner students to master and reinforce critical language skills at their own pace. It covers all the necessary elements of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. Grammar basics are taught through phrases and entertaining illustrations, with no complicated rules to memorize. Extensive practice exercises, self-tests, a pronunciation guide, and a helpful bilingual glossary make these lively guides perfect for anyone desiring to tackle the basics.

Cantiques, Rythmes et Rimes from Vibrante Press is a very lively musical approach to learning or improving French vocabulary, grammar, and general fluency in or out of the classroom. The musicians use the music of the accordion, fiddle, spoons, triangle, banjo, and conga drums to accompany the clever chants designed to learn thematic vocabulary (house, weather, fruit, body, etc.) and grammar (part tenses, main tenses review, double object pronouns, and more). These musically accompanied chants, together with the lively Cajun, Haitian, Zydeco, Zouk, and other authentic Francophone rhythms, all combine to create fun and effective French learning. Appropriate for all ages in the first three years of French.

With Rosetta Stone® French 1 & 2, learners of any age, ability, or language background start at the very beginning of the language and develop everyday proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing—all without using tedious translations or rules of grammar. As chil-



dren we all learned our native languages by connecting new words and sentences with the world around us. In the same way, Rosetta Stone immerses you in French completely, using only native speakers, written text, and vivid, real-life images to help you understand, speak, read, write, and think in French from the start. And Rosetta Stone gives you immediate feedback at every step of the process to confirm your learning. Imagine learning a new language as easily as you learned your first!

Champs-Élysées is the unique ongoing audio-magazine for intermediate-to-advanced learners and speakers of French. Each monthly issue comprises an entertaining hour-long program—on your choice of cassette or CD—produced in France by native French speakers just like a radio broadcast. For 22 years, a regular cast of journalists has been bringing subscribers an array of current events, cultural reviews, travelogues, in-depth interviews, and much more. The accompanying magazine provides a verbatim transcription, extensive parallel-page glossary, and cultural annotations. The new Champs-Élysées PLUS subscription also includes English translations, written and aural exercises with answer key, a fun linguistics essay on French usage, and selected audio features slowed down for easier comprehension. Champs-Élysées PLUS helps to simplify the task of improving real-language comprehension without simplifying the text at hand. It's an entertaining way to improve fluency in a current, cultural context.

Franklin's French-English Dictionary offers over 2 million translations from the Larousse Compact French English Dictionary. Don't know how to spell a word? No problem! Thanks to spell correction

for misspelled words, you will easily find the word you have in mind. You also have access to 2,000 traveler's phrases organized into 21 categories such as business, dining, and communication. To complete your knowledge of the French language, the BFQ-450 also provides you with a complete overview of French grammar rules and complete verb conjugations with translations. Also included are learning exercises, word games, and a crossword solver make learning French a pleasure.

Using the latest technology to integrate visual and audio learning, Global Access Visual Passport French from Penton Overseas Inc. is a new and exciting way to master basic travel French. This Visual Passport includes a 60-minute language DVD, a 60-minute travelogue of France, a compilation of traditional and classical French music, a Lonely Planet phrasebook, and a 45-minute vocabulary CD. The language DVD teaches some essential travel French by seeing the words while hearing them and watching as real people have live conversations! Then immerse yourself in French culture, listening to the music CD, or watching the travelogue take you through the French countryside. Take the audio CD with you in the car to bolster your vocabulary, or put it into your computer to print out the DVD script for your review.

The combination of these products with a good amount of determination makes learning French as easy as *un, deux, trois!* **X**

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