

VIVE LES VACANCES

Cher/Chère _____,

Bienvenue à la classe de Français 112 au lycée de Clarence conjointement avec ECC. Ce sera un plaisir de travailler ensemble. J'espère que vous vous amusez bien pendant les vacances d'été – MAIS il ne faut pas oublier le français! Alors, s.v.p. complétez les devoirs suivants avant la rentrée (*back to school*) en septembre.

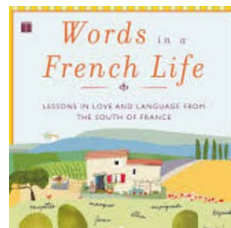
Vous aurez besoin de ces fournitures scolaires :

- 100 5"x8" index cards
- pocket folder or pocket insert
- red pens
- 1" 3-ring binder
- ear buds or headphones



Il faut compléter au moins **5 des 8 tâches suivantes** au cours de l'été. Idéalement, faites une activité toutes les deux semaines – comme ça, vous utiliserez la langue française régulièrement. Bien sûr, vous pouvez laisser tout jusqu'à la dernière minute, mais ça vous donnera beaucoup de stress (et moins d'amélioration dans votre capacité de communiquer en français)!

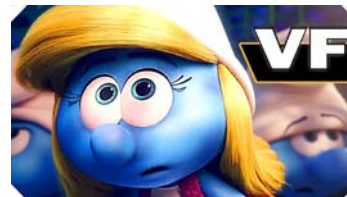
1. Une lecture dans le style de « diglot weave »



2. Regarder des vidéos au sujet des écoles en France



3. Trouver des bande-annonces – version française de vos films préférés



4. Utiliser l'app de Duolingo



5. Apprendre à envoyer des textos en français



6. Découvrir le verlan (*cool slang unique to the French language*)



7. Chercher une pub française rigolo



8. Une liste de choses à faire avant de mourir (où la fin d'été...) et prenez des selfies ☺



N'hésitez pas à me contacter par email (mwilliams@clarenceschools.org) avec des questions. Revenez avec une attitude positive, beaucoup d'énergie et un but à réussir.

À bientôt,

Madame Williams

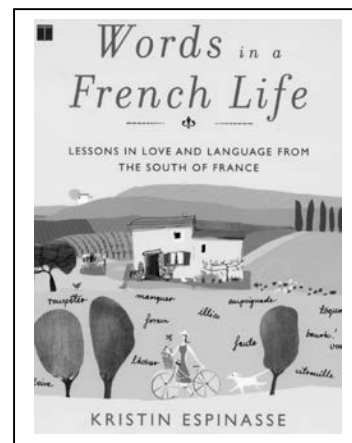
Summary of the 8 possible summer assignment tasks (and you're welcome to complete more than 5 of them...)

THE BIG PICTURE! – all of these are options of things that you can continue to do on your own if you enjoy them to improve your French. Ideally, the French language is something that you can keep up and use to enrich your life. So pick a minimum of 5 things that you think you might enjoy and give them a try.

1. Diglot weave reading

A diglot weave text is one that is written primarily in English first with French words interspersed – the goal being to learn French vocabulary in context. Research shows that they work, but they've never taken off as a really popular language learning tool so they are not easy to find...

In this packet, there are two short excerpts (4 pages total) from a book written by a woman who grew up in the United States, but married a French man and has stayed there to raise a family. Her goal in this book is to share what she has learned about French culture and introduce the French vocabulary that you don't find in typical textbooks. She actually started writing as a blog online and has later gone on to publish several books. This approach is a very enjoyable way to learn about cultural differences between French and American life while increasing your vocabulary. Feel free to check out other things by her (either online or in print).



YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Read through the two text sections; then answer the following question – **Are you more likely to use bouffe or bouquiner in your vocabulary?** Please answer with a diglot weave – most of your words will be in English, but throw in some French words here and there that fit well. Your answer should be a minimum of 10 sentences and include some personal example from your life. Please put your answer on the submission sheet at the very end of this packet.

2. French Possum Videos on Edpuzzle

French Possum is a YouTube Chanel created by a native French woman who is also fluent in English. She has recorded video of her talking in French about cultural topics from France with English subtitles appearing below. If you can look past the super-dorky red heart-shaped glasses she wears, these videos are non-stressful way to both improve listening comprehension (hearing native French, but easily understanding thanks to subtitles) as well as learn a lot about French culture.



YOUR ASSIGNMENT: You will need to join the summer class section on Edpuzzle (class code: **diurfak**). There are 4 videos that go in order from elementary school all the way up to prestigious university options (approximately 8-9 minutes for all of them together, so don't let the fact that there are 4 scare you). There are questions for you to answer (in English) to prove that you are actually paying attention – my goal wasn't to make the questions challenging; instead I wanted you to discover a good free listening option. On the submission sheet, please put the date(s) that you complete them (helps me in case I have trouble finding them...).

3. Movies Trailers in French

People love telling students – “You should watch movies with the French language turned on.” Now, there is some good truth in it, but full-length movies are long and sometimes, you just don't have that much time.



Well, a great thing is that YouTube is loaded with movie trailers (typically 2 minutes each) of almost any American blockbuster hit available in French. When it's a movie you know really well, understanding is easy.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Pick 4 of your favorite American films that you love and have watched several times. Find their trailers in French on YouTube. To do this successfully, you need to know a couple of vocabulary terms:

Bande-annonce = trailer / Version française (vf) = French version / Sous-titres anglais = English subtitles

It's fine if you get it with English subtitles or without (whatever you prefer and/or can find...). On the submission page, there is a table for you to fill out with 1) English name of the movie; 2) French name of the movie (if it is different); 3) between 2-3 words you recognized or learned in French (can be things that you go "Oh yeah I remember that" or maybe a cool new word you learned)

Note: I shouldn't have to say it – but just to be safe, you should pick films that are school-appropriate (for anything you do this entire year in my class, it should be school-appropriate... MERCI!!)

4. Duolingo

Free app that's really good for learning all kinds of languages (not just French). If you already play with it, keep playing with it. If you've never tried it, create a free account and play away. It can be done on a laptop, tablet or smartphone. As far as "free" language learning options out there, this one is the clear leader in quality.



YOUR ASSIGNMENT: At the beginning of this endeavor, take a snapshot of your account that shows what you've done so far. Once you've spent at least 30 minutes learning French, take a second snapshot that documents that time. Either send me the images (mwilliams@clarenceschools.org) or print them out and attach them to the submission sheet at the end.

5. Texto ou SMS français

Have you ever wanted to text in French? Just like texting in English is a shorter code, French speakers have their own way of keeping it quick and easy to do. Although when you first look at it, it sure isn't going to look like the French I've been teaching you! There is a short reference section on the key basic expressions for you to reference and to get you started. It is very important that you remember the French alphabet (it doesn't sound like English for many of the letters) to pull this off. (If you truly can't remember the French alphabet, I recommend hitting YouTube for that).



YOUR ASSIGNMENT: After you have read through reference material, there is a template near the end of this packet for two "text conversations" for you to write in French on and staple to the submissions page. Please write two different dialogues (e.g. one with a friend, one with a parent OR one where you invite a friend, one where you ask a friend for help OR one where you share exciting news, one where you ask what was the French HW, etc.. be creative!) – feel free to mix texting shortcuts I've given you with actual French words from traditional French class (b/c that is what actually happens in texts).

6. Verlan

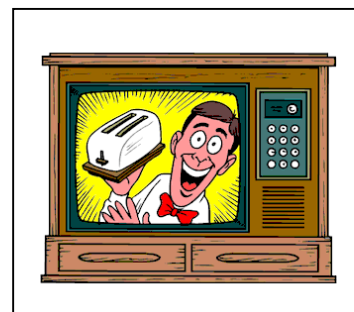
Verlan is a constantly evolving, hip French slang that you can "partially" comprehend as a French language learner. Please read the reference sheets to learn all about it.



YOUR ASSIGNMENT: After you have read through the reference material, please try to “verlanize” four French words, following the basic rules given. A minimum of 2 of them must be 2 syllables or longer. It would be really cool if you pick 4 French words related to something that you are personally interested in (Hockey? Horse-back riding? Video-gaming? Volunteer work? ETC...). There is a spot on the submission sheet for you to put both the French word and your Verlan version of it.

7. Publicité

Commercials are a short (usually between 30 seconds to a minute) exposure to a foreign language that are usually easy to understand due to the visuals and actions that accompany what you hear. And you’ll find on YouTube that there are people who love to post French commercials that they find funny. So spend some time browsing and find one that appeals to you. You don’t have to understand every word – but you should be able to recognize some key words. Be wise – like everything else on YouTube, there is good content and inappropriate content (and we’re looking for the good as a class☺). Some vocabulary that will be helpful:



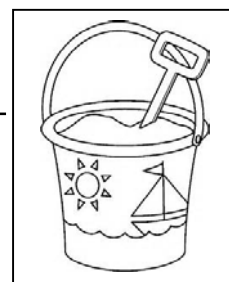
pub(publicité) française = commercial / rigolo, drôle, marrante, amusante = funny / meilleure = best

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: After you find a good commercial, write 3- 4 questions (that go in the order of the commercial) that a French language learner could look for the answers as they watch. French is great if it can be kept a simple question/English if it is more complicated (this is not meant to be super stressful – it should be straightforward and simple). **Please email me (mwilliams@clarenceschools.org with the URL and the questions with an answer key).** If it is one commercial in a long string of commercials with the same URL, give me a brief description of what I’m looking for. On the submission sheet, please put the date you emailed me (it helps me to hunt it down should some filter try to block it).

8. Summer Bucket List

Last, but not least, an option for the NON-procrastinator.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: At the very beginning of the summer write a list in French of at least 15 things you would like to do before the summer ends – you should start each one with an infinitive verb (e.g. voyager au Brésil, monter Mt. Everest – except your list should have things you can really do!). Then throughout the summer, take a minimum of 5 selfies (or you can have someone else take the picture) of you doing one of those things. Then send me (mwilliams@clarenceschools.org) each picture individually with a present-tense sentence in the subject line in the JE form describing what you are doing (E.g. Je voyage au Brésil, Je monte Mt. Everest... REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO JE SUIS VERB to mean I am –ing). Please record the date(s) when you send me a picture (once again it helps me to hunt it down if necessary). Also please staple your bucket list to the submission paper (note: you may cross out things as you do them, but make sure I can still read it).



In case you’re wondering how #8 has a connection to being a way to learn and strengthen French outside of regular classroom work, serious language learners are always thinking as they go through daily life – how do I say this in French? Essentially the learning never stops... So throughout this year, if you just pause during a down moment and wonder “How do I say this in French” about things around you, you will find your French skills improving rapidly.

Be sure to fill out the submission form at the end of this packet as you go – You’ll turn it in on the first day of classes.



KRISTIN ESPINASSE was raised in the United States, moving to France in 1992 to be with her future French husband. In 2002, she began her blog (french-word-a-day.com) and corresponding newsletter. She lives in Provence with her husband and two children.



Words *in a* French Life



LESSONS IN LOVE AND LANGUAGE FROM
THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

Imagine a former French major getting vocabulary tips from her young children! That was the experience of Kristin Espinasse, an American who fell in love with a Frenchman and moved to his country to marry him and start a family. When her children began speaking the language, she found herself falling in love with it all over again. To relate the stories of her sometimes bumpy, often comic, and always poignant assimilation, she created a blog called "French Word a Day," drawing more admirers than she ever could have imagined.

With an approach that is as charming as it is practical, Espinasse shares her story through the everyday French words and phrases that never seem to make it to American classrooms. "*Comptoir*" ("counter") is a piece about the intricacies of grocery shopping in France, and "*Linge*" ("laundry") swoons over the wonderful scent the laundry has after being hung out in the French countryside while "*Toquade*" ("crush") tells of Espinasse's young son, who begins piling gel onto his hair before school each morning when he becomes smitten with a girl in class.

Steeped in French culture but experienced through American eyes, *Words in a French Life* will delight armchair travelers, Francophiles, and mothers everywhere.

KRISTIN ESPINASSE

Bouffe
(boof)

noun, feminine

grub

A few days before *les faits*, my husband announces that twelve of his relatives are coming for *déjeuner* on Sunday. He's so relaxed that he fancies a little jog. "*Je vais courir*," he says, stretching his arms.

"What time are they arriving?"

"*En fin de matinée*."

En fin de matinée ranks right up there with *en fin d'après-midi* for preciseness, for the exactness of time it relays regarding just when an event will take place on French soil.

I have learned that *en fin de matinée* can be anywhere between elevenish and one-thirtyish.

And that *en fin d'après-midi* can be anywhere from the end of the four o'clock hour to 7 PM-ish.

"Don't worry," my husband says, sensing *la panique*. "Everyone is bringing something!"

I'm not sure how he deduced it is the issue of cooking for everyone on such short notice that worries me the most, but I start with the *bouffe*.

"You don't invite someone over for lunch and then tell them to bring the food!"

"*T'inquiète pas*," he says simply.

"Well, what should I make for lunch?"

"*Rien!*"

"But I've got to make something . . ."

"Why don't you make cookies then?"

"Because your aunts will bring fruit tarts."

"*Voilà*," he says, and the way his French lips purse as he begins to draw the word out—*vwaaaaah* with a very abrupt *là!* ending—tells me in one double-syllabled word that the earth will continue to rotate with or without my prep picnic jitters.

Well then. OK. I will worry less, trust more, and jump—or "put myself into the bath," as they say over here. However, I remain curious to see just how one can invite a dozen people over and do absolutely *rien*.

In the end, here's how that happened.

A convoy of cars arrived. The *tantes*, *oncles*, *cousins*, *neveux*, *grand-mère*, *frère*, and the *chien* exited the *bagnoles* with smiles as big as the baskets that weighed down their arms.

I waved from the terrace, a crooked *sourire* creeping across my face.

"*Salut!*" I said.

"*Salut!*" They replied.

"*Comment ça va?*"

"*Ça va très bien!*"

As I smoothed down a cotton *nappe*, one of the cousins pulled out crackers and nuts for the *apéro*. With that, baskets were unhitched, *glacières* unhooked, the food and drinks set forth.

"*Du Châteauneuf-du-Pape!*" Jean-Marc's uncle announced, offering the wine from his vines.

I looked up to a veritable feast. The offerings continued.

"*Du pâté*, Jacques?"

"Would you like a sausage, Michèle-France?"

"*Sabine*, goûte *ça!*"

"Kristi, come and try Geneviève's tart, the cherries are from our garden. *Attention aux noyaux!*"

We formed two rows separated by the mismatched tables that were connected and camouflaged by a pastiche of Provençal tablecloths. Every once in a while, an olive pit would be catapulted over the side of the terrace to land inside the rosemary hedge below. And just like that, we filled our *ventres* in between chatting and laughing under the *soleil du midi*.

When the time came to pile plates, shake out the *nappes*, and saunter over to the shady olive trees for a siesta (along with half the in-laws), I made a promise to myself to remember this day, and how easily it unfolded, just like the tablecloths.

REFERENCES: *le fait* (m) = event; *le déjeuner* (m) = lunch; *je vais courir* = I'm going for a run; *en fin de matinée* = late morning; *en fin d'après-midi* = late afternoon; *la panique* (f) = panic; *rien* = nothing; *une tante* (f) = aunt; *un oncle* (m) = uncle; *le cousin* (*la cousine*) = cousin; *un neveu* (m)

= nephew; *une grand-mère* (f) = grandmother; *un frère* (m) = brother; *le chien* (m) = dog; *une bagnole* (slang) (f) = jalopy, car; *le sourire* (m) = smile; *salut!* = hello; *comment ça va?* = how are you?; *ça va très bien* = I am fine; *une nappe* (f) = tablecloth; *un apéro* (m) = aperitif; *une glacière* (f) = cooler; *goûte ça* (*goûter*) = taste that; *attention aux noyaux* = watch out for the pits; *un ventre* (m) = stomach; *le soleil du midi* (m) = afternoon sun

Bouquiner

(boo-kee-nay)

to read (informal)

Why don't you read in French?" my French friends asked. "Tiens, prends ça!" they offered.

One friend gave me her Mary Higgins Clarks—translated into *français*; another, her French *livres de poche*. An Anglophone neighbor delivered a crate of books. "Can you believe someone would throw these out? They're all in French. I thought you might like them."

I looked through the discarded books: some very, very old, some *très, très* pink, as in the *romans roses*, or "pink novels," from the early twentieth century. I sometimes wonder if the name comes from the way French cheeks used to blush when reading the risqué passages. Not being in the mood for the French equivalent of a Harlequin romance, I added the editions to my bookshelf for safekeeping.

My husband then gave me a copy of Nancy Huston's *L'em-*

preinte de l'ange. I paused to admire its *couverture*: a sixteenth-century drawing by Raphael titled *Un Ange*.

"*Merci!*" I said, and displayed the book on my nightstand, where it copied its literary neighbors by collecting *poussière*. They were tempting, but I still wouldn't read them. What's the point of reading an English book that's been translated into French? I reasoned. When cornered, I'd say, "Reading is supposed to be a leisure activity. I can't relax when I am looking up words. Pfff!"

My neighbor insisted I sign up at the library. He and his wife drove with me to Saint-Raphaël and stood witness as I received my first French library card. I promptly checked out five picture books.

And then, the *décllic*. I was reading an online review for Maupassant's *Bel-Ami*, fully intent on ordering the English translation, when I stumbled upon a very passionate review. The reviewer had taken the time to urge shoppers to read the book in French, insisting that the English translation would not do the book justice. As impossible as that sounded to me at the time, to read Maupassant in French, I ordered the book.

"I'm reading Maupassant!" I tell people now. Bragging not like a connoisseur who says, "I'm drinking Châteauneuf-du-Pape these days," but like a three-year-old who screams: "I can ride!" Never mind that the bike has training wheels.

Now, words pop off the page like sizzling fireworks and no longer like little language snipers, waiting to undermine my efforts to read in French. The French words roll around my tongue like a caramel, until they melt, but not before infusing

Words in a French Life

my palate with their sound, for I am already whispering the words.

I'm also reading Anna Gavalda's *Ensemble, c'est tout*, and learning *français courant*—the language people use today. When I come across a word I want to remember, like the French word for "crazy," which is *fofolle*—don't you just want to say it?—I close my eyes and repeat, "I will remember you! *Fo-folle fo-folle fo-folle*. I will remember you!"

As Erik Orsenna has been teaching me in his *La Grammaire est une chanson douce*, "the French language is your country. Learn it. Invent it. It will be, for all your life, your most treasured friend."

REFERENCES: *tiens, prends ça!* = here, take this!; *le français* (m) = French; *un livre de poche* (m) a paperback book; *très, très* = very, very; *un roman rose* (lit.: pink novel) (m) = a romance novel; *une couverture* (f) = cover; *la poussière* (f) = dust; *le décllic* (m) = the trigger



Also

un bouquin = a book

un(une) bouquiniste = a secondhand bookseller

Expression

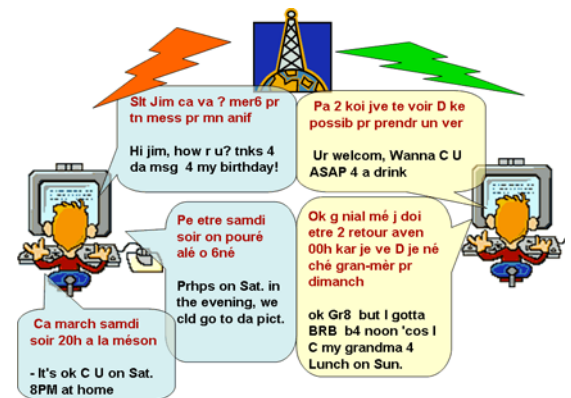
bouquiner un livre = to read a book

French Texting - Les Textos français

French abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols used in chatrooms, forums, email, and text messaging

Learning French is one thing, but French on the internet - in chatrooms, forums, text messaging, and email can seem like a completely different language. Fortunately, help is at hand. Here are some common French abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols to help you communicate via text, followed by some helpful tips and pointers.

French	Meaning	English
6né	Ciné	Movie theater
A+	À plus	L8R
@+		CUL8R
A12C4	À un de ces quatres	See you one of these days
a2m1	À demain	CU2moro
@2m1		
ALP	À la prochaine	TTFN
AMHA	À mon humble avis	IMHO
APLS	À plus	TTFN
ASV	Âge, Sexe, Ville	ASL
auj	Aujourd'hui	Today
b1sur	Bien sûr	Of course
BAL	Boîte aux lettres	Mailbox
BCP	Beaucoup	A lot
bi1to	Bientôt	RSN
bjr	Bonjour	Hello
bsr	Bonsoir	Good evening
C	C'est	It is
CAD	C'est-à-dire	That is, i.e.,
cb1	C'est bien	That's good
C cho	C'est chaud	It's hot
Cé	C'est	It is
Ché	Chez Je sais	At the home of I know
Chu	Je suis	I am
Chui		
Chuis		



adapted from

Awless French

C mal1	C'est malin	That's clever, sneaky
C pa 5pa	C'est pas sympa	That's not nice
CPG	C'est pas grave	INBD
Ct	C'était	It was
D100	Descends	Get down
d'ac dak	D'accord	OK
DSL	Désolé	IMS
DQP	Dès que possible	ASAP
EDR	Écroulé de rire	LOL
ENTK EntouK	En tout cas	IAC
FAI	Fournisseur d'accès internet	ISP
FDS	Fin de semaine	WE, Wknd
G	J'ai	I have
G1id2kdo	J'ai une idée de cadeau	I have a great idea
GHT2V1	J'ai acheté du vin	I bought some wine
G la N	J'ai la haine	H8
GspR b1	J'espère bien	I hope so
Gt	J'étais	I was
Je c	Je sais	I know
Jé	J'ai	I have
Je le saV	Je le savais	I knew it
Jenémar	J'en ai marre	I'm sick of it
Je t'M	Je t'aime	ILUVU
Je vé J've	Je vais	I'm going
JMS	Jamais	NVR
KDO	Cadeau	Gift
Kan Kand	Quand	When
Ke	Que	that, what
Ké	Qu'est	What is
Kel	Quel, Quelle	Which
Kelle	Qu'elle	That she
Keske	Qu'est-ce que	What
kestufou Ksk t'fu	Qu'est-ce que tu fous ?	What the hell are you doing?

In case you've forgotten how to pronounce the letters in French...

a	ahh
b	bay
c	say
d	day
e	ehh
f	eff
g	jhay
h	ahsh
i	ee
j	jhee
k	kahh
l	ehll
m	ehmm
n	ehnn
o	ohh
p	pay
q	koo
r	aihr
s	ess
t	tay
u	ooh
v	vay
w	doo-bluh-vay
x	eex
y	ee-grek
z	zed

Ki	Qui	Who
Kil	Qu'il	That he
Koi	Quoi	What
Koi29	Quoi de neuf ?	What's new?
Lckc	Elle s'est cassée	She left
L's tomB	Laisse tomber	Forget it
Lut	Salut	Hi
MDR	Mort de rire	ROFL
mr6	Merci	Thx
MSG	Message	Msg
now	maintenant	ATM
NSP	Ne sais pas	Dunno
o	Au	In the, at the
Ok1	Aucun	None, not one
OQP	Occupé	Busy
Oué	Ouais	Yeah
p2k	Pas de quoi	URW
parske	Parce que	COZ
p-ê pitit	Peut-être	Maybe
PTDR	Pété de rire	ROFLMAO
Pkoi	Pourquoi	Y
Po Pô	Pas	Not
q-c q queske	Qu'est-ce que	What
qq	Quelques	Some
qqn	Quelqu'un	Someone
raf	Rien à faire	Nothing to do
ras	Rien à signaler	Nothing to report
rdv	Rendez-vous	Date, appointment
RE	(Je suis de) retour, Rebonjour	I'm back, Hi again
ri1	Rien	O, nothing
savapa	Ça va pas ?	Is something wrong?
SLT	Salut	Hi
SNIF	J'ai de la peine	I'm sad
STP/SVP	S'il te/vous plaît	PLS



T	T'es	You are
tabitou	T'habites où ?	Where do you live?
tata KS	T'as ta casse ?	You have your car?
ti2	T'es hideux	You're hideous.
tjs	Toujours	Always
tkc	T'es cassé	You're tired.
TLM	Tout le monde	Everyone
T nrv ?	T'es énervé ?	Are you irritated?
TOK	T'es OK ?	RUOK?
TOQP	T'es occupé ?	RUBZ?
Tt	T'étais	You were
V1	Viens	Come
vazi	Vas-y	Go
VrMan	Vraiment	Really
X	crois, croit	believe
XLnt	Excellent	XLNT
y a ya	Il y a	There is, there are



French Texting Rules:

The basic rule of texting is to express yourself with the fewest number of characters possible. This is done in two ways:

- Using abbreviations, like TLM for Tout Le Monde
- Using letters that are pronounced like the desired sounds, like OQP for occupé (O - CCU - PÉ)

Patterns:

- C replaces C'EST, S'EST, SAIS, etc.
- É replaces AI, AIS, and other spellings of similar sounds
- K can replace QU (e.g., koi) or CA (kdo)
- O replaces AU, EAU, AUX, etc.
- T replaces T'ES and other spellings of the same sound
- 1 replaces UN, EN, or IN
- 2 replaces DE

Tip: If all else fails, try reading the symbol out loud. :-)

Verlan: A Cryptic, Popular French Slang You Must Secretly Learn

Did you ever speak Pig Latin when you were young? You know, that secret code language where you move the first consonant to the end of the word and add “ay”?

Like this: French → **renchfay**, today → **odaytay**, cup → **upcay**.

As children we learn to speak in codes like Pig Latin because we want to tell secrets out loud. As French learners, you can learn French’s **verlan**—which is kind of like your childhood spoken codes but at a higher level—to understand and talk like natives.



French Slang 101

There are two types of commonly practiced slang in French: **argot** and **verlan** aka **verlan à l’envers**.

1. Argot

Argot can take loads of time to learn and is best picked up by living in real-time French culture.

Argot vocabulary words are passed down by parents and grandparents through upbringing. They are just completely different words that substitute the same words you’ve already been learning, such as the word *bagnole*, which is *argot* for *voiture* (car).

To learn them would be like starting an entire new French lesson, but if you want to challenge yourself and try it out, a great way to do this is to incorporate one word a day into your learning and try to use it whenever possible. A list of *argot* words can be found all over the internet!

2. Verlan à l’envers

Verlan à l’envers can be your life saver! It’s a cooler, cryptic slang that’s actively practiced and accepted by the younger French population. Not only that, but it’s much easier and faster to learn than *argot*. Yes, key word: faster! So if you’re already a master of original French vocabulary and grammar, then **verlan sera du gâteau !** (will be a piece of cake).

What Is Verlan?

It all began when French people chose to speak in code in an effort to hide information from social control and police forces.

The information exchanged usually related to illegal instances, but now the style of speaking in **verlan** has stuck and found its way into the younger French generation—and even music, like French hip hop and rap. Although it still bears a sort of negative connotation by the older generation due to its roots, it’s commonly used by many young French who are familiar with it. Trust me, they all are. You’ll also be surprised to know that **verlan** has even made it into French dictionaries for its popular use!

Verlan, which is actually the French word **à l’envers** backwards or “reversed” (that’s what it translates to), is a form of Pig Latin that French speakers use in everyday talk; way, way more than an English speaker would ever use Pig Latin in their entire life.

It’s considered a language game that involves breaking up original French words at their syllables and consonants and reversing them. There are rules to follow though, like every language; and like all language rules, some can be overruled.

The most important rules? Knowing your syllables, consonants, keeping an attentive ear to sound and knowing your basic French vocabulary, of course. Once you get the hang of it, it'll be easy as pie, so here are 10 French words *verlanisés* to help get you started in the world of *verlan à l'envers*:

10 French Verlan Slang Words You Must Learn

1. Céfran (Français – French)

Céfran is categorized under the novice level of *verlan*. *Cé-~~fran~~*, as you can see, is the reversal of the syllables in *français*. By breaking up the word *français* at its syllables, *fran-çais*, you get *cé-~~fran~~*. *C'est un céfran* ? (Is he French?)

2. Tromé (Métro – Metro)

Similar to *céfran*, *tromé* is on the beginner's side. It's a two syllable word, *tro-mé*, which is the *verlan* of *mé-tro*.

Tromé is used almost all the time. You'll hear it on the metro (duh), at parties or with friends who are familiar speaking to each other like this.

Vous êtes arrivés ici en tromé ? (Did you come here by metro?).

3. Cimer (Merci – Thank You)

Another one of those easy, peasy, lemon squeezy *verlanisé* words!

Mer-ci becomes *ci-mer*. *Merci* is also only made up of two syllables, and because no accent is needed, it could perhaps be the utmost effortless word of *verlan*. I'm not going to translate this one into English for you because, well, you should know what *merci* means! You'll hear *cimer* fluidly used by numerous young *français*. I'd consider it the most used *verlan* word of all.

T'es génial, cimer ! (You're awesome, thank you!).

4. Ouf (Fou – Crazy)

Vous êtes fou! If you never heard of this one before, *fou* is the regular word in French for "crazy."

This one might look tricky because it's a short word with two vowels next to each other. I'm sure you've conceived that the breaking up of syllables involves splitting a word up at its vowels, but in the case of three-letter *verlan* words, there's an exception.

Here's how it looks: *f-ou* becomes *ou-f*. In this case you break up the vowels *together* and take the ending pair of letters and move them to the beginning of the word. *fou* – *ouf*.

The reason for this exception is due to the major element of *sound*. *Ouf* sounds more like *fou* backwards [foo – oof] than (uof) would.

Like *cimer*, *ouf* is also really, really common. A funny popular everyday expression using the *verlanisé* of *fou* aka *ouf* is:

Truc de ouf. (That's crazy or it's crazy).

C'était un truc de ouf ! (It was crazy!).

Truc translates to "thing" in French, and it stands for literally any, old thing. Anything can be a *truc*. Try to remember this expression for next time and you'll blow all your classmates, comrades and colleagues away!

5. Oim (Moi – Me)

Like to *ouf*, *moi* or *oim* is broken up the same way, via rule exception.

Again, the "M" or letter without a vowel stands alone in the break-up reversal. *M-oi* becomes *oi-m*. The reason is for priority of sound. *Oim* sounds more like *moi* backwards than *iom* would.

Viens chez oim ! (Come to my place!).

6. Meuf (Femme – Woman)

The *envers* (reverse) of *femme*, which I hope you know translates to “woman” is *meuf*.

Meuf is considered a more advanced word to *verlaniser* compared to the prior ones on this list.

Directly looking at it, you may be confused as to how *femme* becomes *meuf*, but here’s how the *verlanisé* of it looks:

Femme → *fe-mme* → *mme-fe* → *mmefe* → *meuf*

I know that even after this step-by-step explanation you still might not understand

why *femme* becomes *meuf*, but as I mentioned before, *sound* is a number one rule!

When you try to say *femme* backwards by using the literal reversal (*mmefe*), it does not go whatsoever!

The addition of the “U” and dropping the final “E” make *meuf* ring more like *femme* backwards.

Always remember that this is a language game, and that rules can be a little topsy turvy. That goes for any language in general. It’s just something that you’re “supposed” to know or memorize!

7. Reuf (Frère – Brother)

These next three *verlan* words on the list are going to apply the same rule as the one found in *femme*.

Frère, which is the word for “brother” in French, as you see, gets *verlanisé* into *reuf*.

There goes that “U” again! That’s another common change you’ll see with these next three words on the *verlan* list. Incorporating the “U” into these words and dropping the last “E’s” give the word a better sound in its *envers* (reversed) version.

In the case of *frère* aka *reuf*, the second “R” is also dropped:

Frère → *frè-re* → *re-frè* → *refre* → *reufre* → *reuf*

Once you hear and say these words to yourself out loud you’ll see what I mean about the difference between the sound in *reuf* and *refre*. The extra “R” at the end of *re-fre* takes away from the original sound of *frère*, that is why it becomes *reuf*.

As I mentioned before, *verlan* is famously used within French hip hop and rap. Here’s the word *frère* (along with some others we’ve learned) used in action by a famous French rapper, *Rohff*. The title of the song is called “*Classique*.”

“*Une keuf meuf, ou se faire poucave par son propre reuf.*” (A female cop, who got snitched out by her own brother).

Yes I know, doesn’t nicely flow as much in English! But if you noticed, *meuf*, one of the words we learned, is also thrown into the sentence, along with another that isn’t on the list: *keuf*. *Keuf* is *verlan* for “cop” or “police,” the *envers* of *flic* (which is *argot* for *police*).

8. Reum (Mère – Mother)

Mère (mother) in *verlan* is *reum*. Like the previous two words on the list, the same rules apply. Here’s how this one looks:

Mère → *mè-re* → *re-me* → *reume* → *reum*

I know these *verlanisé* words look a little more German than French. It’s crazy! But bear with me please!

Let’s just say that if you’re living in France at a homestay with foreign French parents, calling your house mom *reum* probably won’t slide. They might not even know what it means, especially if they’re part of the older generation. Some house parents are on the younger side though. If they are, try to casually throw it in there, they might think it’s cute.

9. Teuf (Fête – Party)

Now we get to the cool stuff. *Teuf*, which is the *envers* of *fête* (party) is regularly used by the younger, hip generation.

I know I've said this a million times, but this is the last, I promise: The same aforementioned rule applies! Okay I said it, there.

Fête → *te-ef* → *tefe* → *teufe* → *teuf*

So when to use *teuf*? Whenever your heart desires. Because similar to *ouf* and *cimer*, *teuf* is an extremely favored *verlan* word.

So if you're speaking in front of your French homestay mom and you're sneakingly planning to go to a secret French underground rave, then *teuf* would be the wiser word to use.

Tu veux venir à la teuf ce soir ? (You wanna come to the party tonight?).

10. Vénère (Énervé – Angry)

So I saved the best for last, because this French word might describe to how you feel right now, a little *vénière* aka *énervé*?

Vénère is the *verlan* of *énervé*, which is French for “angry” or “mad.” If you don't feel either of these, would you say a tad bit frustrated? I did too, the first time I heard of such a thing as *verlan*! But don't worry, after the first learning hill, it's a trip!

Here's one last switch-up:

énervé → *én-ner-vé* → *vé-ne-ré* → *vénière*

That was nice and easy.

Note: Be careful not to confuse *vénière* with the verb *vénérer*, which means to “venerate” or “worship” in French.

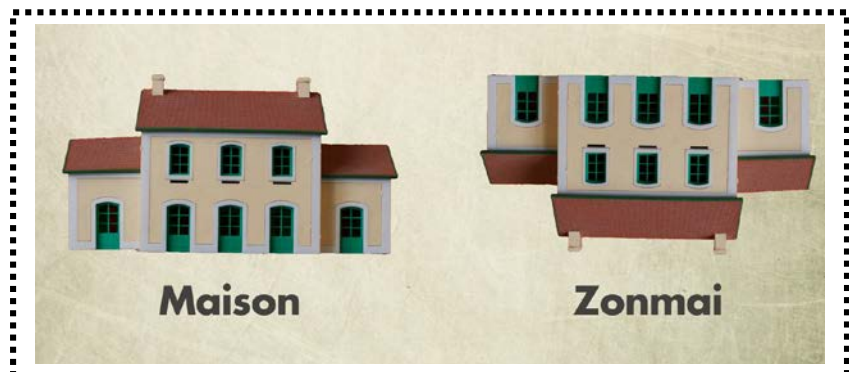
For the most part, this list here of *verlan* vocabulary words are a just few of the prominently used. While all French words can technically be *verlanisé*, some are more commonly used than others.

It's kind of hectic to literally *verlaniser* every French word in a sentence (though there are people who do it). Others try to even *verlaniser* a word that's already been *verlanisé* (this is known as *veul*), which is the double *verlan* of the word *verlan*, making it even more cryptic—but let's not carried away.

Normally, there are only certain words within a sentence that are *verlanisés*. If you're having trouble figuring out which words to “hide” during normal French speech, think about the word within the sentence that you want to be kept secret, that's usually your best bet.

Now that I've let *you* in on a little secret, chime in and try to detect *verlan* among young, cool, hip French speakers. You'll be surprised at how much you actually hear! (adapted from www.fluentu.com)

SVP – Essayez de verlaniser 4 mots de français. **Based on what you've read, take 4 different French words and try to make up your own verlan form of it. Don't worry whether it's actually a form that the French people use. Madame just wants you to play with the concept. Please make sure at least two of the words you pick have two or more syllables.**



Please put the name of the person you are talking to (e.g., Mom, Dad, etc.) to whom you are talking

ami, parent, these boxes.

ami, parent, these boxes.

SUMMER

BUCKET LIST

Écrivez au moins 15 choses que vous voulez faire avant la fin d'été.

(e.g. finir tous mes devoirs avant le premier jour de classe ☺)

Turn in this sheet (and any additional materials needed for your choices) to Madame **on the first day of classes.**

Please check which 5 tasks you chose. (5 points for each completed task – all or nothing for each task)

_____ v 1. Diglot weave (write response in space below)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

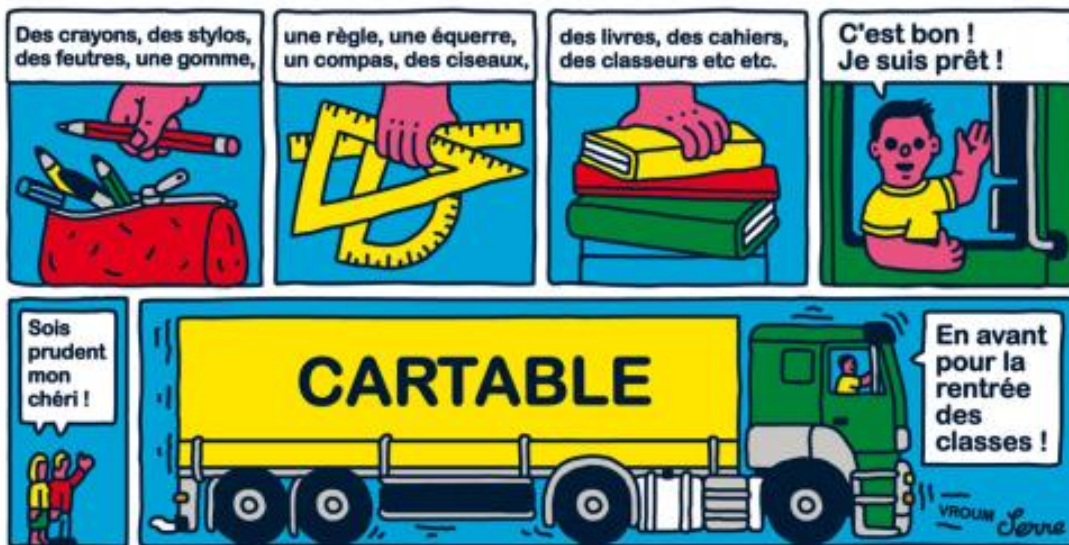
√ 2. Edpuzzle – Please indicate the date when you completed each one.

Part 1 _____

Part 2 _____

Part 3 _____

Part 4 _____



Note Culturelle: French school children historically would take *un cartable*, a leather bag that looks what you see below, with all of their *fournitures scolaires* to school. The *bande dessinée* to the left is making fun of how many supplies students now need (and how expensive it is...)



____ √ 3. French movie trailers

Titre en anglais	Titre en français	Vocabulaire (2-3 mots)

____ √ 4. Duolingo – Please either staple pictures to this page or write the date that you emailed me. _____

____ √ 5. Textos – Please staple your work sheet to this page.

____ √ 6. Verlan – For each one, please list the original French word and the new verlan form.

1. _____ → _____
2. _____ → _____
3. _____ → _____
4. _____ → _____

____ √ 7. Pub Française– Please indicate the date you sent email to me. _____

____ √ 8. Summer Bucket List – Please staple list to this paper & indicate the date(s) below when you sent me a photo.

Image 1 _____

Image 2 _____

Image 3 _____

Image 4 _____

Image 5 _____

