



LANGUAGE TOOLKIT

FRENCH

READING

Text written for child audiences often use a vocabulary base and sentence structure that beginner French students are familiar with.

Test your reading comprehension and expand your vocabulary with:

- **The Conversation Junior** - articles written in simple language by science experts answering curiosity questions that French children have sent in.
- **Online fairytales** - often accompanied with audio such as those found [here](#) and [here](#).



STORIES & BOOKS

We recommend finding the french translation of books that you already enjoy, or that you enjoyed as a child. *Par exemple*, if you loved Roald Dahl, find the French versions! **Abbeys Bookstore**, level 2, near the QVB is the best second-language bookstore in Sydney *d'après nous* !

- **The Fable Cottage and The French Experiment**
- **Guy de Maupassant**

APPS

Use language learning apps like Duolingo, Babbel, or Rosetta Stone to practice your skills.



NEWS

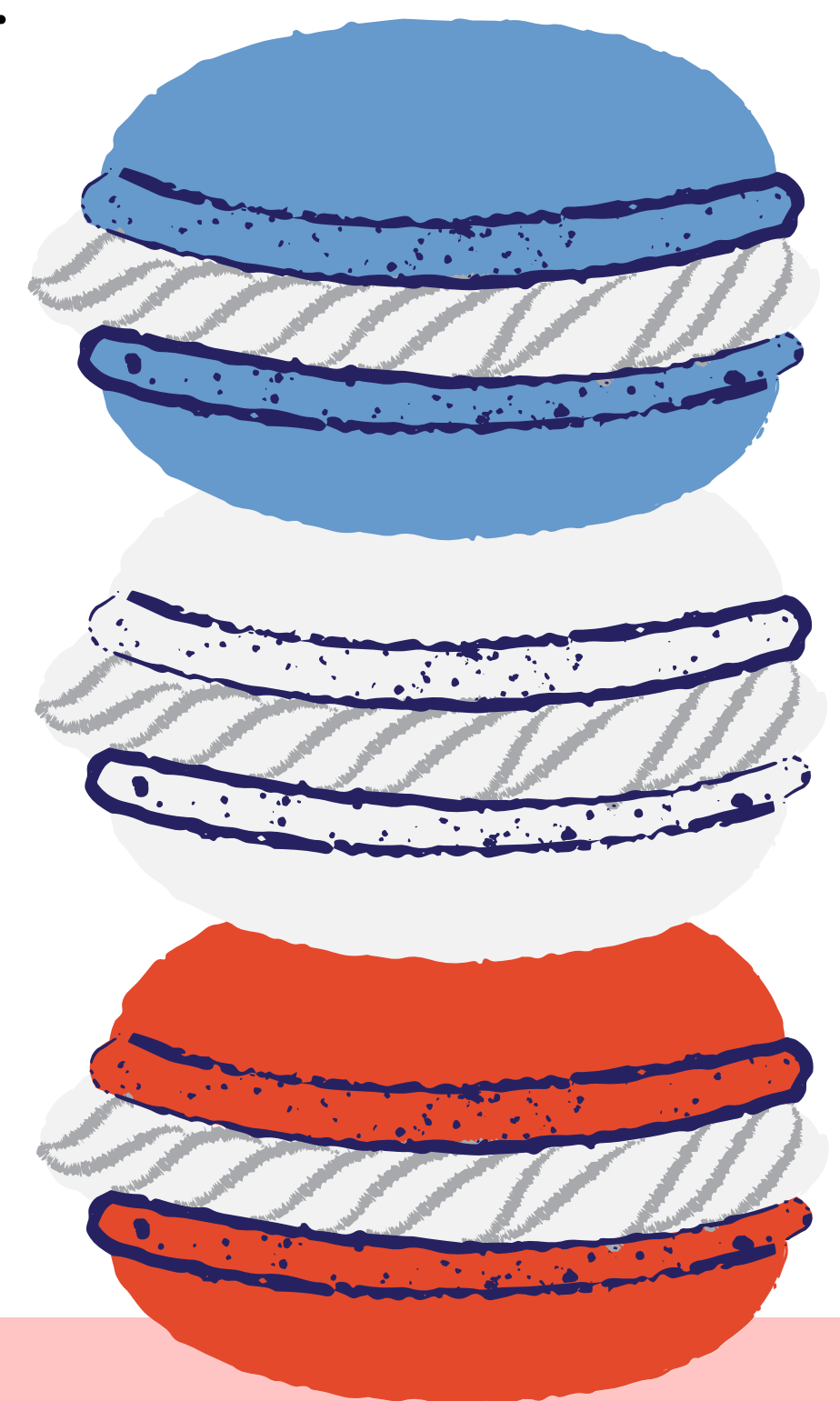
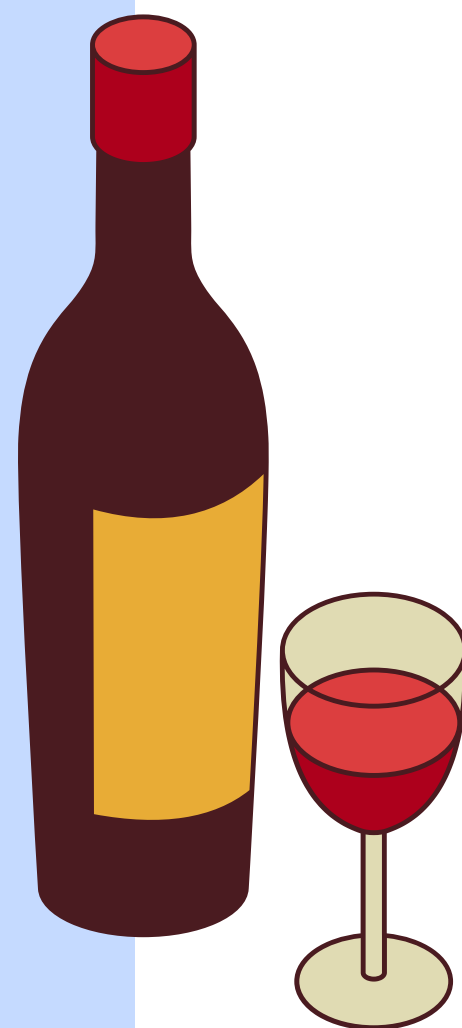
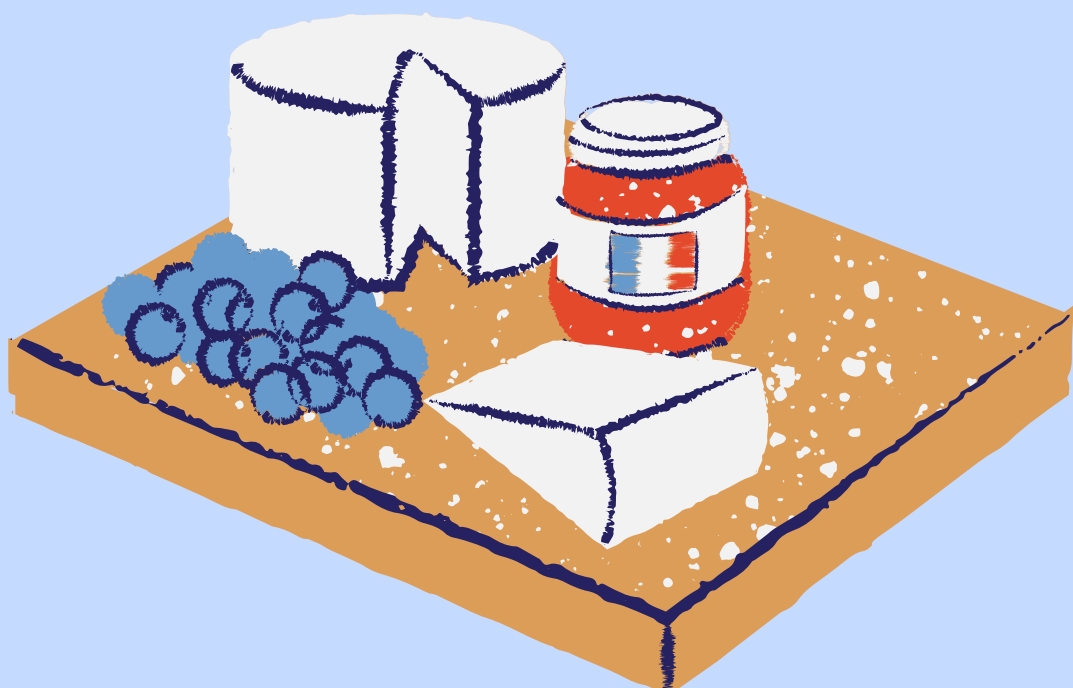
- **Le Gorafi** - the French equivalent of the Betoota Advocate (satirical), commentary on hot topics, news events, and cultural 'in jokes'
- **Le Monde** - left-wing/centrist
- **Le Figaro** - right-wing
- **Slate France** - online magazine about culture, economics, tech and health.



Stories and books continued...

It can be useful to read French language picture books and comics (*bandes dessinées* or BD), because you can deduce meanings from the images.

- **Les Aventures de Tintin**
- **Le Petit Prince**
- **Le Petit Nicolas**
- **L'Etranger**
- **Madame Bovary**
- **Candide**
- **Exercices de Style**
- **Journal du Dehors**



News continued...

- **FranceInfo** - short articles about current affairs. Their daily newsletter is also an easy way to read the headlines of what is going on in France and the Francophone world.
- **The Conversation français** - this website publishes short versions of scientific and political commentary written for general audiences.

MUSIC

POP	RAP	CLASSICS	INDIE
Angèle Julien Doré Christine and the Queens Miel de Montagne Zaz Aya Nakamura Vendredi sur Mer Claire Laffut	Gael Faye Stromae Alpha Wann Eddy de Pretto Booba Freeze Corleone Kaaris 667 Diam's Lala & ce Bigflo & Oli	Edith Piaf Jacques Dutronc Françoise Hardy BB Brunes Yves Montand Charles Aznavour Louise Attaque Leo Delibes Georges Bizet	Mattyeux Videoclub Oscar Anton Lewis ofMan Requin Chagrin Carla Bruni Pomme La Femme Juniore

LISTENING

PODCASTS

Listening to podcasts is a great way of immersing yourself in the 'sound' of French. Even listening passively while doing other things helps the brain learn subconsciously patterns in sentence structures and proper pronunciation.

We've categorised French language podcasts into two categories: those made for language learning and those made for native french listeners.

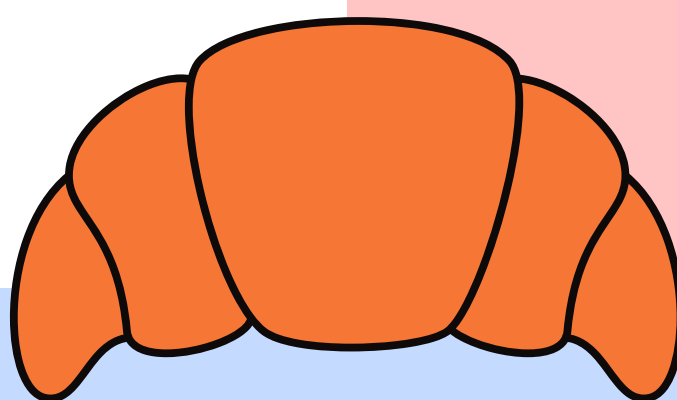
Language learning podcasts

- **Coffee Break French** - a podcast, YouTube channel and other online resources available for all levels from beginners to advanced. We recommend the Travel Diaries podcast episodes for B1-B2 learners.
- **Easy French** - a great introductory podcast and YouTube channel to familiarise yourself with the sound of French
- **SBS Easy French** - the news in slow French
- **Language Transfer** - a free, online course of French audio lessons
- **The InnerFrench Podcast**

Podcasts for native French listeners

All podcasts below can be found on Spotify:

- **Franck Ferrand raconte l'Histoire**
- **Simple Cafeine**
- **Ah Ouais... Le podcast**
- **Woke or Whateva** - if you #ADORE quebécois, this is *pour toi* !
- **C'est Cool ! C'est Quoi ?**
- **FloodCast**
- **C dans l'air**
- **Les Pieds sur terre**
- **Émotions**
- **Basilic - L'écologie à petits pas**
- **La Poudre**
- **L'Heure du Monde**



TV SHOWS

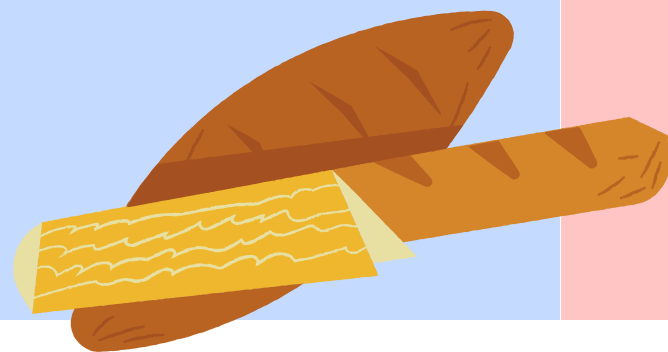
French and francophone TV shows can be found on most mainstream streaming services.

- **TV5Monde** also provides a number of French language TV programs including weather forecasts, journalist reports and fictional shows.
- **French Connections** on SBS on Demand is a collection of free French/francophone movies and TV series.

More TV show recommendations on the next page...

TV SHOWS *continued*

- **Lupin** (Netflix)
- **L'Agence Parisienne** (Netflix)
- **Family Business** (Netflix)
- **DragRace France** (Stan) - it can be *difficile* to understand because it is *très vite*, but *ça va aller* slay !
- **Dix Pour Cent/Call My Agent** (Netflix)
- **Panayotis Pascot: Almost** (Netflix)
- **Plan Coeur** (Netflix)



YOUTUBE

YouTube channels designed for language learning:

- **EasyFrench**
- **Bla Bla Kaity**
- **innerFrench**
- **Piece of French**

Other useful channels:

- **Damon Dominique**
- **Hugo Decrypte**
- **Purple Palace**
- **Les Marioles Trotters**

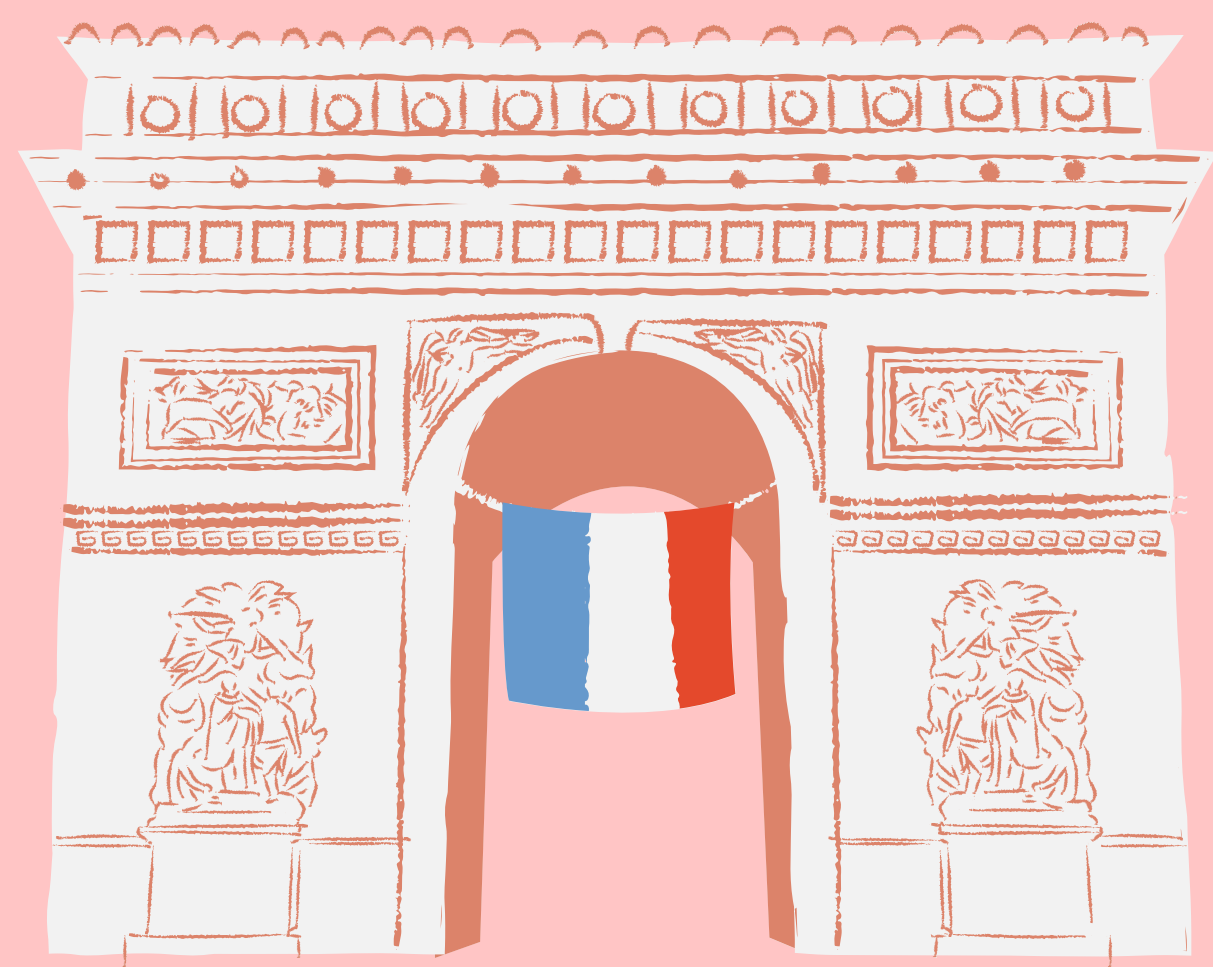
FILMS

- **Petit Nicolas (2009)** - family comedy
- **Belle et Sébastien (2013)** - classic children's film about a boy and his dog
- **Portrait de la Jeune Fille en Feu (2019)** - historical lesbian romance
- **Aurore (2005)** - murder mystery
- **La Vie d'Adèle (2013)** - lesbian love story at the end of the 90s
- **Les Demoiselles de Rochefort (1967)** - musical comedy
- **Amelie (2001)** - surreal comedy and love story
- **La Haine (1995)** - crime/drama that explores the realities of young people from the 'banlieue' in Paris, discusses police brutality and race relations
- **What's in a Name? (Le prénom) (2012)** - comedy about a group of friends
- **Mon Roi (2015)** - drama that explores the nature of an abusive relationship
- **Je ne suis pas un homme facile (2018)** - a comedy that explores what would happen to French society if the gender roles of men and women were swapped

SOCIAL MEDIA

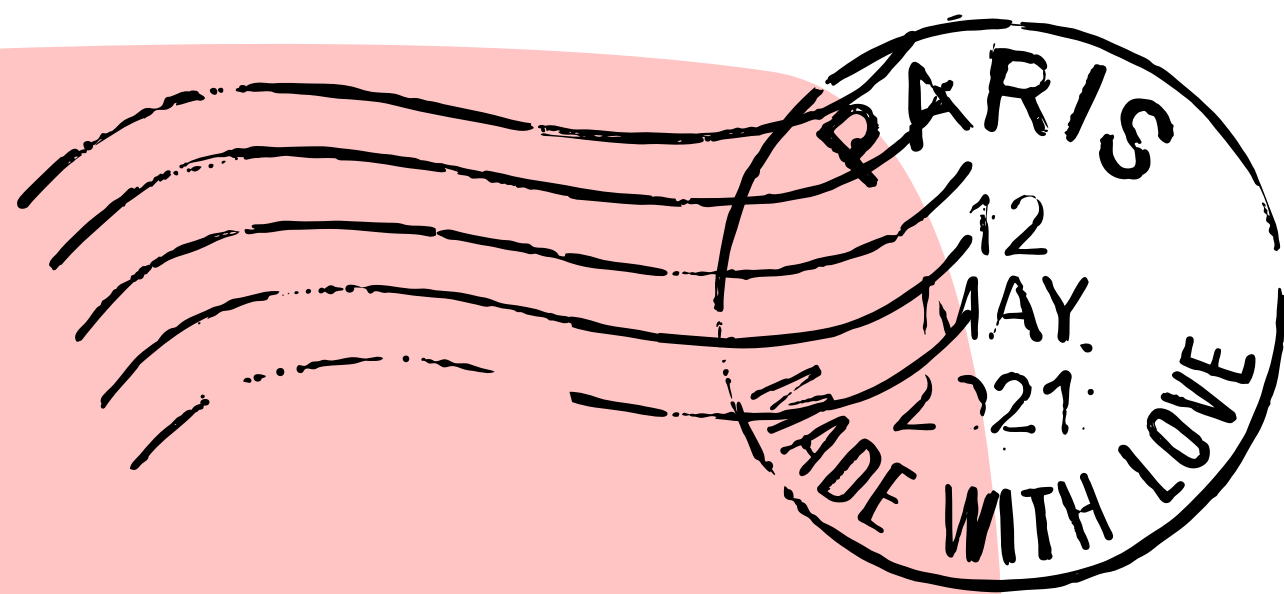
Put your screen time to good use and learn French through social media. We recommend these Instagram accounts (some of which are not for beginners):

- **@tatty_macleod** - bilingual comedy sketches
- **@yohannlaveant** - comedy sketches
- **@concontelevision** - comedy sketches
- **@smarxmarx** - standup comedy
- **@frenchwithpatrick** - language learning
- **@myfrenchatelier** - language learning
- **@chiquita.mere** - Arcadienne memes
- **@frenchissimo_** - language learning
- **@livresdesophie_** - book reviews
- **@mangeuse_dherbe** - vegan cooking



PRACTICE SPEAKING!

Don't be scared to make mistakes, actually speaking French with others is the best way to learn the language



- Use the **Maîtrise le français guide** to improve your pronunciation
- Use this **conversation toolkit**
- **Italki.com** - a paid, online service where you can find individual tutors or group classes for a low price.
- Talk to old and lonely French people at **shareami.org**
- Attend the **USYD French Society** conversation groups on campus
- **Aloha Sydney** - a tri-weekly language exchange that takes place at various bars in Sydney. It's a great opportunity to practice your speaking skills with native speakers and other learners (IG: @alohasydney).

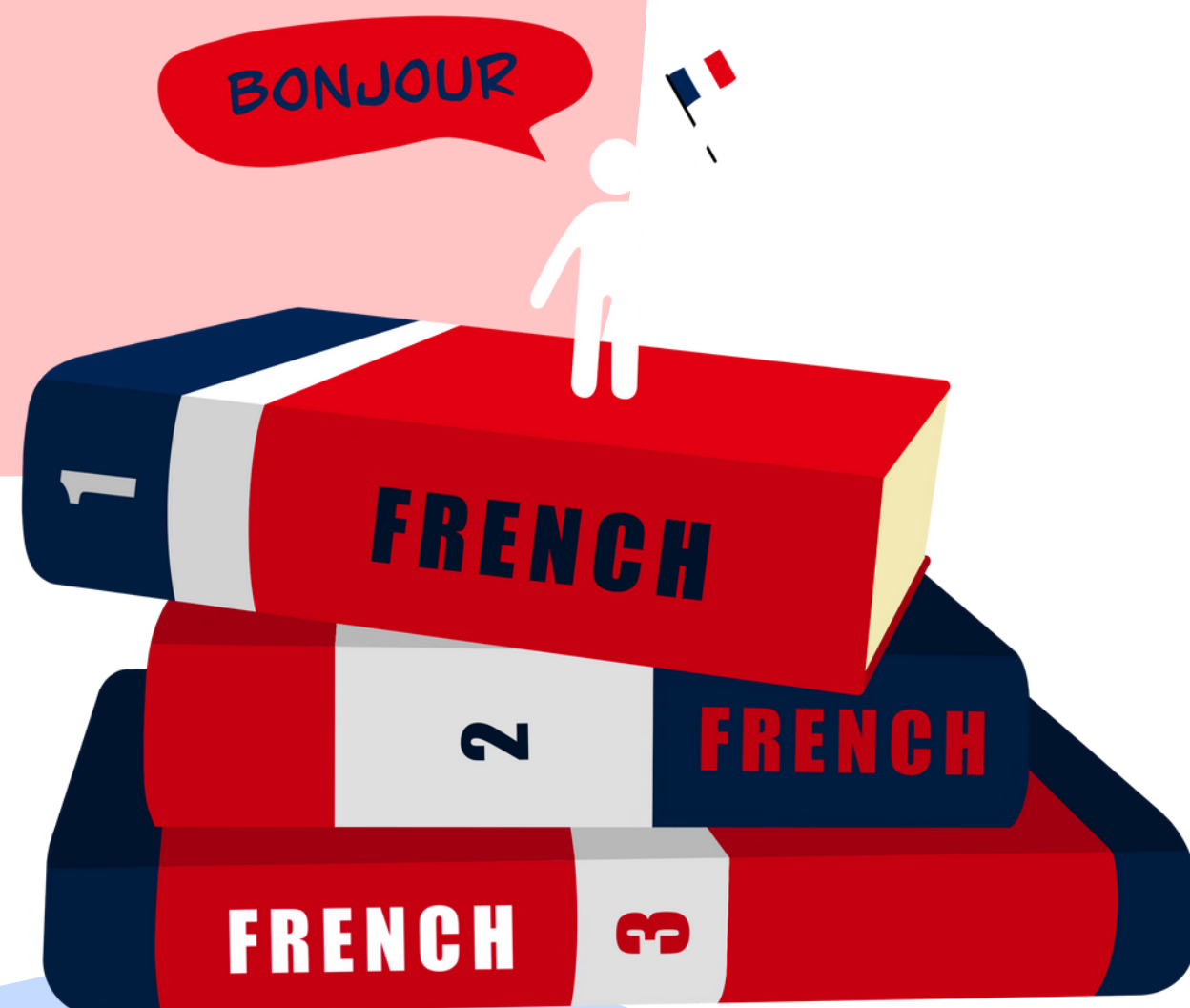
Still scared of speaking to a French person? Try mimicking phrases you hear in podcasts or movies, or read aloud in French to develop your accent and gain an understanding of common phrases and sentence structures.

Need a new hobby? Watch these French YouTubers to start practicing yoga with **Marine**, learn to crochet with **Retropicaly** or make desserts with **Les Pépites de Cloé**.

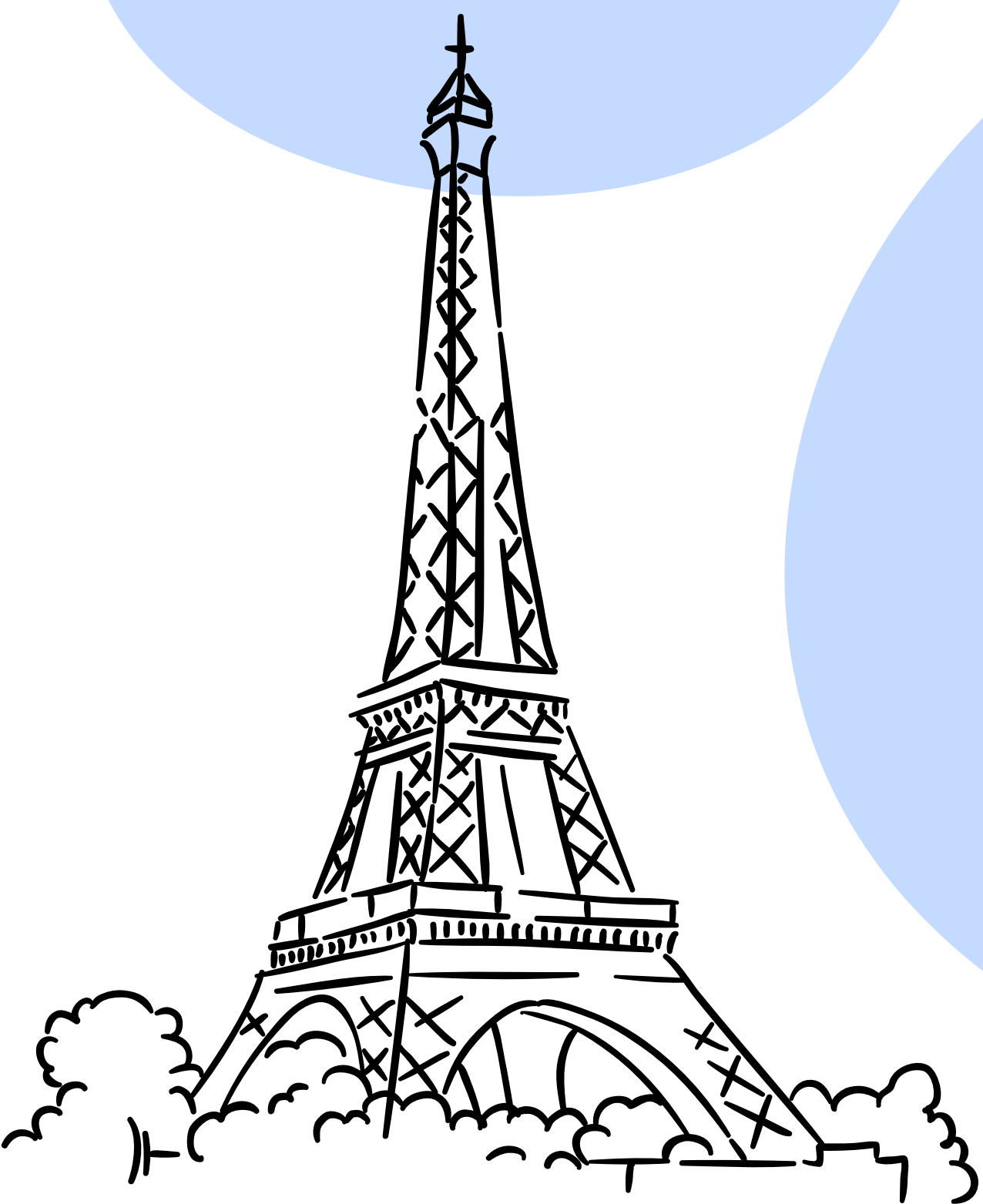


TOP TIPS

- Don't get caught up on trying to *comprendre* everything. Exposure to the language is progress!
- Writing your daily to-do list in French is a good way to practice the imperative e.g. *Finish* my draft, *Finis* mon brouillon
- Put sticky notes with new vocab words or idioms on them behind your bathroom door or around your home to remind you - repetition works!
- Try playing French Wordle **Le Mot**



Make flashcards with **Anki** to memorise vocabulary words and verb conjugations.

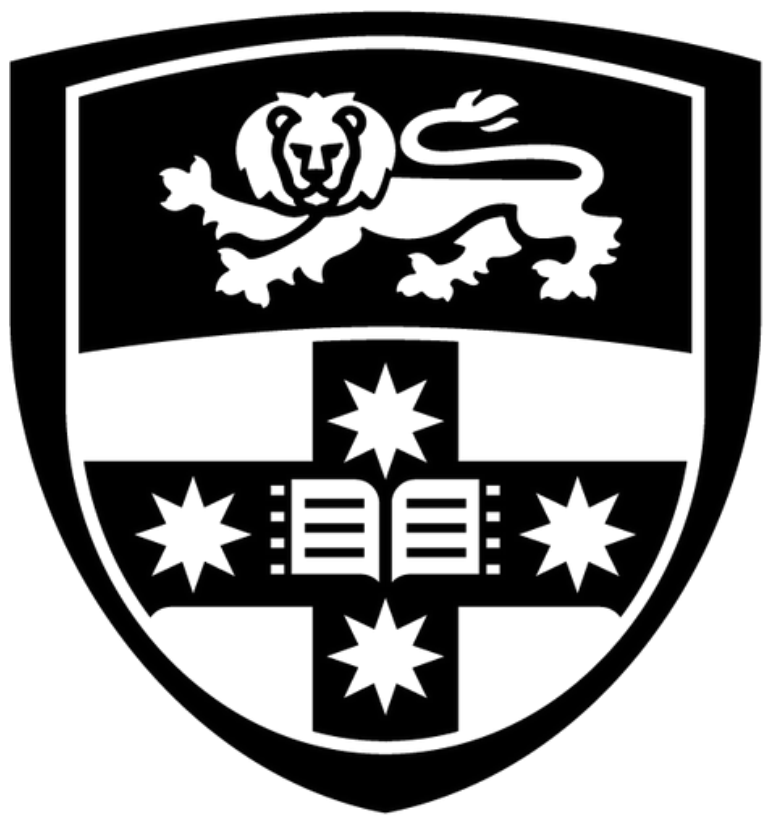


Dictionaries & Translators

- **Word Reference** - an online dictionary that is great for providing examples of idioms and how words fit into sentences
- **Linguee** - another online dictionary that searches the internet for real in-text examples of words
- **DeepL** - similar to Google Translate but more accurate and easier to navigate
- **Bon Patron** - checks grammar

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