

Opening extract from

Oxford Primary French Dictionary

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Introduction

The *Oxford Primary French Dictionary* is a completely new dictionary written for primary schoolchildren between the ages of 7 and 11.

This dictionary is much more than a basic resource for looking up translations: it also helps children to see patterns in the way French is used and structured and identify relationships between similar-looking French and English words. It provides an understanding of the basic concepts of grammar and also includes age-appropriate and interesting cultural information.

The layout is modern and clear with French picked out in green and English picked out in blue. Child-friendly example sentences and phrases illustrate common usage and constructions, and feature panels present information in a simple graphic way.

The illustrated thematic centre section of the dictionary is a further opportunity to develop key vocabulary skills with its topic-based phrases and sentences. The central verb table section provides a simple first step into using and understanding verb tenses.

The *Oxford Primary French Dictionary* makes learning another language enjoyable, fun, and easy. It is a vital and effective tool that will enable children to start using French confidently.

The publishers and editor are indebted to all the advisors, consultants, teachers, and readers who were involved in planning and compiling this dictionary. Special thanks go to Danièle Bourdais, Sue Finnie, and Isabelle Stables-Lemoine.

MJ

Get to know your dictionary

The dictionary is divided into two halves, the *French-English* side and the *English-French* side. These are separated by a picture section and verb tables in the middle.

French
English

- **Where do I find the English translation of a French word?**
- Look in the *French-English* half which comes first.

English
French

- **Where do I find the French translation of an English word?**
- Look in the *English-French* half towards the back of the book.

b

- **How do I find a word quickly?**

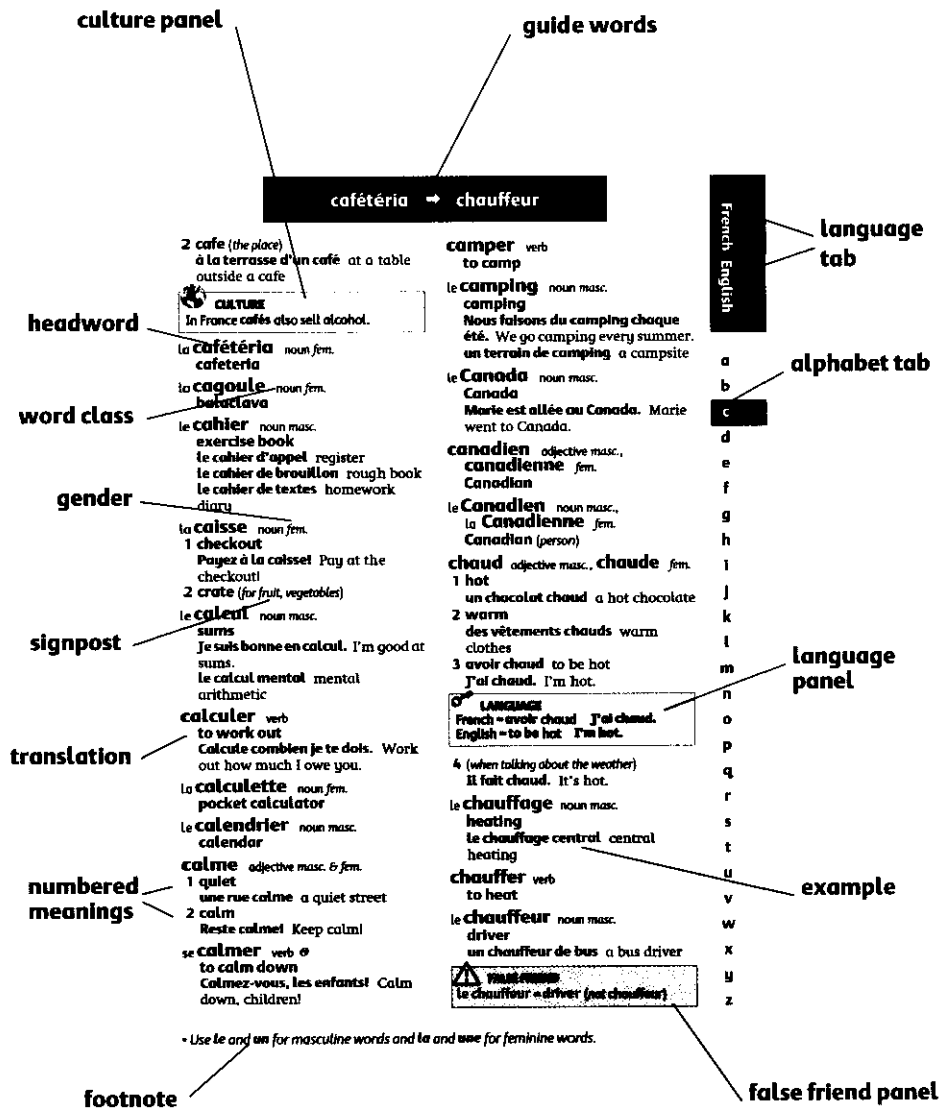
c

- Use the alphabet on the edge of each page to find the first letter of the word you need.

d

mais → maman

- Then use the guidewords highlighted on the top of the page. They are the first and last words on the page. Think of the order of letters in your word to make sure you are on the right page.
For example, what does **maison** mean in English?
- Look in the *French-English* half.
- Find where **m** is highlighted in the alphabet on the edge of the page.
- Look at the two words at the top of a page. Find the words beginning with **ma**, then **mai**, then **mais** until you get to **maison**.



headwords

These are the words you look up. The French headwords are in green. The English headwords are in blue.

word classes

Most headwords in the dictionary are nouns, verbs, or adjectives. Sometimes a word can be more than one word class: for example, 'phone' can be a noun (He's on the phone) or a verb (Phone me tomorrow). For nouns, the dictionary gives the French word for 'the', e.g. **le jardin, la maison, les spaghettis**.

gender

French nouns and adjectives are either masculine (*masc.*) or feminine (*fem.*). Nouns and adjectives can be singular (just one) or plural (more than one).

translations

These are the headwords translated in English or French.

examples

Examples show you how to use the headword in a typical way.

numbered meanings

If a headword has more than one translation, numbers separate each translation.

signposts

These point you to the right translation, usually when there is more than one meaning of the word you are looking up, e.g. a 'picture' can be a *drawing*, and the French is **dessin**, or a picture you see (*in a book or on TV*) and then the French is **image**.

language panels

Vital information about how to use the headwords correctly is shown in the key language panels.

false friend panels

These are important warnings to stop you from using a French word which looks like an English one but which has a completely different meaning!

culture panels

Interesting facts about French culture are shown in these panels.

alphabet tab

To help you navigate your way through the dictionary, the letter you are on is highlighted on the alphabet strip on every page.

language tab

This shows which side of the dictionary you are on.

guide words

These help you to find the word you are looking for easily. They show you the first and last word on the page.

footnotes

These give you useful general language reminders.

Aa

a verb SEE **avoir**

- 1 (in the present tense) **has**
Aurélien a un ordinateur. Aurélien has a computer.
- 2 (when used to form a past tense)
Elle a fini ses devoirs. She has finished her homework.
- 3 (when talking about somebody's age) **is**
Il a 9 ans. He is 9 years old.

🔑 **LANGUAGE**
 French = **avoir** 10 ans **J'ai** 10 ans.
 English = **to be** 10 (years old) **I am** 10 (years old).

à preposition

🔑 **LANGUAGE**
 à + le = **au**
 à + les = **aux**

- 1 **at**
Nous sommes à l'école. We're at school.
On arrive à deux heures. We're coming at two.
- 2 **in**
Elle habite à Londres. She lives in London.
Il neige beaucoup au Canada. It snows a lot in Canada.
à l'hôpital in hospital
au printemps in the spring
- 3 **to**
Je vais à la poste. I'm going to the post office.
Nous allons à Londres. We're going to London.
Il part au Japon. He's off to Japan.
Envoie un courriel à tes parents. Send an email to your parents.
C'est facile à faire. It's easy to do.
- 4 (to show that something belongs to somebody)
C'est à moi. It's mine.
C'est à Emilie. It's Emilie's.

🔑 means use **être** to make the past tense.

5 on

- Il écrit au tableau.** He's writing on the board.
aller à pied to go on foot
- 6 (in the distance) **away**
C'est à six kilomètres. It's six kilometres away.
C'est à cinq minutes d'ici. It's five minutes away from here.
- 7 **À mardi!** See you on Tuesday!
À demain! See you tomorrow!
À plus tard! See you later!

une **abeille** noun *fem.***bee****abîmer** verb**to ruin**

Il abîme tous mes jouets!
 He's ruining all my toys!

d'**abord** adverb**first**

Je vais manger d'abord. I'm going to eat first.

D'abord, il va en France, ensuite en Espagne. First, he's going to France, then Spain.

aboyer verb**to bark**

Le chien aboie. The dog is barking.

un **abricot** noun *masc.***apricot****absent** adjective *masc.*,**absente** *fem.***absent****absolument** adverb**absolutely**un **accent** noun *masc.***accent**

Il a un drôle d'accent! He has a funny accent!

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accepter verb
to accept

un **accident** noun *masc.*
accident
un **accident de voiture** a car
accident

d' **accord** adverb
1 (answering 'yes') **all right**

Tu viens? - D'accord! Are you
coming? - All right!

2 **être d'accord** to agree
Je suis d'accord avec toi. I agree
with you.

accrocher verb
to hang

**Je vais accrocher le tableau au
mur.** I'm going to hang the picture
on the wall.

l' **accueil** noun *masc.*

1 **reception**
Elle travaille à l'accueil. She
works at the reception desk.

2 (on web page) **home**
la page d'accueil the home page

accueillir verb
to welcome

acheter verb
to buy

**Mes parents vont m'acheter un
vélo.** My parents are going to buy
me a bike.

Je n'achète jamais de chips. I never
buy crisps.

**J'ai acheté un souvenir pour ma
sœur.** I bought a souvenir for my
sister.

un **acteur** noun *masc.*
actor

une **activité** noun *fem.*
activity

une **actrice** noun *fem.*
actress

les **actualités** plural noun *fem.*
news

une **addition** noun *fem.*

1 (in maths) **sum**
faire des additions to do sums

2 (in a restaurant) **bill**
L'addition, s'il vous plaît! The bill,
please!

additionner verb
to add up

J'ai additionné les deux nombres.
I added up the two numbers.

un **adjectif** noun *masc.*
adjective

admettre verb
to admit

un or une **ado** noun *masc. & fem.*
teenager

C'est un magazine pour ados. It's a
magazine for teenagers.

un **adolescent** noun *masc.,*
une **adolescente** *fem.*
teenager

adorable adjective *masc. & fem.*
lovely

adorer verb
to love

Omar adore le sport. Omar loves
sport.

Sophie adore jouer de la guitare.
Sophie loves playing the guitar.

une **adresse** noun *fem.*
address

Écris ton adresse sur l'enveloppe.
Write your address on the
envelope.

**Tu me donnes ton adresse
électronique?** Can you give me
your email address?

LANGUAGE
French = **adresse**
English = **address**

un or une **adulte** noun *masc. & fem.*
grown-up, adult

• Languages, nationalities, and religions do not take a capital letter in French.

un **adverbe** noun *masc.*
adverb

un or une **adversaire** noun *masc. & fem.*
opponent

un **aéroport** noun *masc.*
airport

les **affaires** plural noun *fem.*

1 (clothes and personal objects) **things**
Range tes affaires! Put your things away!

J'ai oublié mes affaires de piscine.
I forgot my swimming kit.

2 business

une femme d'affaires a business woman

une **affiche** noun *fem.*
poster

affreux adjective *masc.*,
affreuse *fem.*
awful

africain adjective *masc.*, **africaine** *fem.*

African

un **Africain** noun *masc.*,
une **Africaine** *fem.*
African (person)

l'**Afrique** noun *fem.*

Africa

l'Afrique du Nord North Africa

l'Afrique du Sud South Africa

agacer verb

to annoy

Tu m'agaces! You're getting on my nerves!

l'**âge** noun *masc.*

age

à l'âge de douze ans at twelve years of age

Quel âge as-tu? How old are you?

âgé adjective *masc.*, **âgée** *fem.*
old

les personnes âgées old people

ⓘ means use **être** to make the past tense.

une **agence de voyages** noun *fem.*

travel agent's

un **agenda** noun *masc.*
diary

Note la date sur ton agenda. Write the date in your diary.



FALSE FRIEND

un agenda = a diary (not an agenda)

un **agent de police** noun *masc.*,
une **agente de police** *fem.*
police officer

agiter verb

1 to shake

Agite la bouteille. Shake the bottle.

2 to wave

Papy agite son mouchoir. Grandpa is waving his handkerchief.

un **agneau** noun *masc.* (plural les **agneaux**)
lamb

une **agrafe** noun *fem.*

staple

agréable adjective *masc. & fem.*
pleasant

un **agriculteur** noun *masc.*,
une **agricultrice** *fem.*
farmer

ai verb SEE **avoir**

1 (in the present tense) **have**

J'ai un chien. I have a dog.

Je n'ai pas d'animal. I haven't got a pet.

2 (when talking about somebody's age) **am**

J'ai 11 ans. I am 11 years old.

3 (when used to form a past tense)

J'ai fini mes devoirs lundi.

I finished my homework on Monday.

J'ai perdu ma clé. I've lost my key.

l'**aide** noun *fem.*

help

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aider verb**to help****Tu m'aides?** Can you help me?**aïe** exclamation**ouch**un **aigle** noun *masc.***eagle****aigre** adjective *masc. & fem.***sour****aigu** adjective *masc.***l'accent aigu** the acute accent**Léa, ça s'écrit l, e accent aigu, a.**

Léa is spelt l, e acute, a.

une **aiguille** noun *fem.***1 needle****2 (on a clock or watch) hand****la grande et la petite aiguille**

the big and the little hand

l'**ail** noun *masc.***garlic**une **aile** noun *fem.***wing****ailleurs** adverb**somewhere else****aimable** adjective *masc. & fem.***kind, nice**un **aimant** noun *masc.***magnet****aimer** verb**1 to like****Tu aimes la musique?** Do you like music?**Mon frère aime bien son prof.**

My brother likes his teacher.

J'aimerais bien une glace au**chocolat.** I would like a chocolate ice cream.**J'aimerais bien visiter le musée.**

I would like to visit the museum.

**LANGUAGE**French = **J'aimerais bien ...**English = **I would like ...****2 to love****Elle aime Anthony.** She loves Anthony.**3 aimer mieux** to prefer**J'aime mieux rester chez moi.**

I prefer to stay at home.

aîné adjective *masc.*, **aînée** *fem.***older****ma sœur aînée** my older sisterl'**aîné** noun *masc.*, l'**aînée** *fem.***oldest child**l'**air** noun *masc.***1 air****Sautez en l'air!** Jump up in the air!**2 (of a song) tune****Chantez sur l'air de Frère Jacques!**

Sing to the tune of Frère Jacques!

3 avoir l'air to look**Papa a l'air content.** Dad looks pleased.**Maman a l'air contente.** Mum looks pleased.une **aire de jeux** noun *fem.**(in the park)* **playground****ajouter** verb**to add**l'**alcool** noun *masc.***alcohol**l'**Algérie** noun *fem.***Algeria****algérien** adjective *masc.*,**algérienne** *fem.***Algerian**un **Algérien** noun *masc.*,une **Algérienne** *fem.***Algerian (person)**l'**alimentation** noun *fem.***food****le rayon alimentation** the food department**allé** verb *masc.*, **allée** *fem.* SEE **aller**

• The months of the year and days of the week do not take a capital letter in French.

une **allée** noun *fem.*
(in the park) **path**

l'**Allemagne** noun *fem.*
Germany

l'**allemand** noun *masc.*
German (the language)
Tu apprends l'allemand? Are you learning German?

allemand adjective *masc., fem.*
German

un **Allemand** noun *masc., fem.*
une **Allemande** *fem.*
German (person)

aller verb ①

1 to go

Tu aimes aller à l'école? Do you like going to school?

Elle va en Espagne tous les ans. She goes to Spain every year.

Je ne vais pas à la piscine. I'm not going to the swimming pool.

2 (used after être)

Je suis allé chez Nadia. (boy speaking)

Je suis allée chez Nadia. (girl speaking) I went to Nadia's.

3 (used with another verb in the infinitive to talk about the future) to be going

On va manger du poisson ce soir. We're going to eat fish tonight.

4 (when talking about how you feel) to be

Comment allez-vous? How are you?

Je vais bien. I'm all right.

Ça va? - Ça va, merci. How are you? - Fine, thanks.

5 (when talking about clothes etc.) to suit

La jupe te va bien. The skirt suits you.

un **aller** noun *masc.*

single (ticket)

Je voudrais un aller pour Paris. Could I have a single to Paris?

un aller simple a single ticket

un aller retour a return ticket

① means use *être* to make the past tense.

allergique adjective *masc. & fem.*

allergic

Je suis allergique au lait. I'm allergic to milk.

allez verb SEE **aller**

Allez tout droit! Go straight on!

Allez, viens! Come on!

allô exclamation

(on the phone only) **hello**

s'allonger verb ①

to lie down

Allongez-vous par terre! Lie down on the floor!

allons verb SEE **aller**

Nous allons voir un film. We're going to see a film.

Allons-y! Let's go!

allumer verb

to put on, to switch on

Allume la lumière! Put the light on!

Je peux allumer la télé? May I switch the TV on?

une **allumette** noun *fem.*

match

alors adverb

so

Alors, quelle heure est-il? So what time is it?

Et alors? So what?

les **Alpes** plural noun *fem.*

the Alps

l'**alphabet** noun *masc.*

alphabet

alphabétique adjective *masc. & fem.*

alphabetical

par ordre alphabétique in alphabetical order

une **amande** noun *fem.*

almond

la pâte d'amande marzipan

une **ambulance** noun *fem.*

ambulance

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améliorer verb
to improve

amener verb
to bring

amer adjective *masc.*, **amère** *fem.*
bitter

américain adjective *masc.*,
américaine *fem.*
American

un **Américain** noun *masc.*,
une **Américaine** *fem.*
American (person)

l'**Amérique** noun *fem.*
America

l'Amérique du Nord

North America

l'Amérique du Sud South America

un **ami** noun *masc.*, une **amie** *fem.*
friend

un **petit ami** a boyfriend

une **petite amie** a girlfriend

mon **milleur ami** my best friend

amical adjective *masc.*, **amicale**
fem., **amicaux** *masc. plural*,
amicales *fem. plural*
friendly

l'**amitié** noun *fem.*
friendship

l'**amour** noun *masc.*
love

amoureux adjective *masc.*,
amoureuse *fem.*
in love

Elle est **amoureuse de Tom**. She's
in love with Tom.

une **ampoule** noun *fem.*
1 light bulb
2 blister

amusant adjective *masc.*,
amusante *fem.*
funny

Estelle est **amusante**. Estelle's
funny.

s'**amuser** verb *Ø*
to have fun, to play
Amusez-vous bien! Have fun!

un **an** noun *masc.*

1 year

l'an dernier last year

l'an prochain next year

2 (when saying how old somebody is)

J'ai huit ans. I'm eight years
old., I'm eight.

LANGUAGE

French never leaves out the word **ans**.

3 **le jour de l'an** New Year's Day

le nouvel an New Year

un **ananas** noun *masc.*

pineapple

ancien adjective *masc.*,
ancienne *fem.*

1 (before the noun) old

C'est mon ancienne adresse.

That's my old address.

2 (after the noun) old

un **bâtiment très ancien** a very old
building

LANGUAGE

The first meaning of **ancien** is 'from your
past', and the second is 'made a long time
ago'.

un **âne** noun *masc.*

donkey

un **ange** noun *masc.*

angel

une **angine** noun *fem.*

throat infection

l'**anglais** noun *masc.*

English (the language)

Cyprien apprend l'anglais.

Cyprien is learning English.

LANGUAGE

French = Je parle **anglais**.
English = I speak **English**.

• See the centre section for verb tables.